CREEPY #138

WARREN MAGAZINE

JUNE 1982

CREEPY

WIZARDS AND WARRIORS BATTLE IN "FOOLS AND KINGS!"

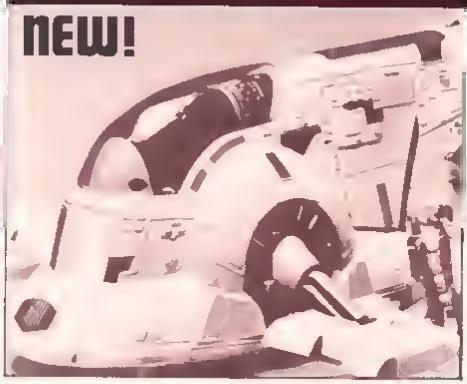
PLUS! THE LOATHSOME, MURDEROUS MUMMY RISES...IN "LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER!"

BLOOD-SPLATTERED SPECTACULAR!

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

INCREDIBLE MODELS & SETS FROM THE MOST EXCITING MOVIE EVER!

SLAVE 1: BOBA FETT'S SPACESHIP



SLAVE I: An exciting replica of the awesome Boba Fett's ship! Highly detailed ship has movable ramp into the cargo hold, adjustable seat for landing and flight positions, adjustable wings that lock for cruise control. The clicking, moving laser cannons will protect Slave I from any pursuit ships. [illegible] will hold at least three action figures beside Boba when the side panel is removed! A frozen Han Solo figurine is included! This is a functional toy that requires no batteries! Action figure not included. #26299—$24.95

AT-AT WALKER

ALL TERRAIN ARMORED TRANSPORT: Highly detailed 8" tall replica of the deadly walkers! The legs and head control room are movable! #24258—$7.25

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

TURRET & PROBOT PLAY SET

TURRET AND PROBOT PLAYSET: Watch out Rebels! Probot is looking for you! You can relive the dramatic battle on the ice planet Hoth with this deluxe playset! You can eject the Probot with the action lever that you control! For added thrills, there's a realistic Rebel Laser Gun Turret. Action figures fit inside through the opening side door and into the hatch on top. Turret laser cannon clicks as it turns! Intricately detailed and colorful plastic Probot and laser Turret are just what you need to kindle your imagination and authenticate the world of your Star Wars action figures! Durable plastic will last for years! Action figures sold separately! #26297—$15.95

YODA ACTION PLAY SET

ENCOUNTER WITH YODA ON DAGOBAH: Beautifully molded and authentically detailed Yoda's bog home is 10" in diameter with lift away roof & figures of Yoda teaching the force to Luke Skywalker! #24256—$9.95

IMPERIAL ATTACK ON REBEL BASE ACTION SET

BATTLE ON ICE PLANET HOTH: Darth Vader's Imperial troops attack the rebel stronghold in this 12"x19" action scene! Included are terrain base, three snap together attack walkers, an X wing fighter, a scout walker, three snow speeders and almost fifty figures! #24257—$9.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

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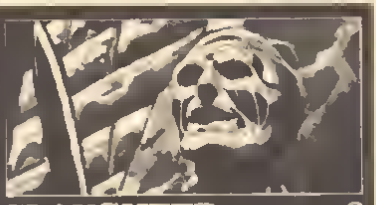
CREEPY

NUMBER 138 JUNE 1982

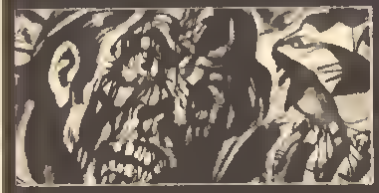
UNCLE CREEPY 4

Readers eat up "The Consumers" and take a dim view of "Eyewitness News"! Plus...a thank-you note for "The Wedding Gift"! Kudos for Courtney's covers! And what happened to hand lettering?



SLAUGHTER 6

The doctors told Caroline why her nerves had snapped when she saw the mummy...it bore an uncanny resemblance to her! But when she learns the reason for that resemblance, she may go totally mad!

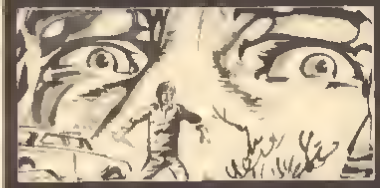


DERELICT 21

The father and son were startled enough to see a German destroyer sailing on the night-shrouded sea! But when they discovered it was the Graf Spee, which had gone down more than 40 years ago...!

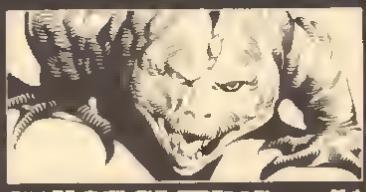
FOOLS & KINGS 31

The king was haunted by nightmares of plots to usurp his throne! From what quarter would the challenge arise? Spake the fool: "The one to whom the castle falls is often found within its walls!"



DREAMWORLD 41

Melissa Wayne wanted to forget her life as a soap opera villainess! But there was one who would not let her forget...one who, viewing her celluloid sins through a haze of madness, vowed to punish her!



CRY OF GLIPINS 51

Jake Ryker was proud of the job he'd done wiping out the monstrous denizens of Glipinia, paving the way for colonization! But the last living Glipin had other plans for his world...and for Ryker!

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Dear Uncle Creepy

Several stories in **CREEPY #136** started off nicely but lacked effective resolutions The uncredited "All the Time in the World" was surprisingly optimistic and engaging in a gee-shucks way, but it ended just when I expected to see the impact our intrepid flyer had on the beings of the future **Gerry Boudreau** started "Never Say Die" as an interesting little parable about the true way to satisfaction in life, but he couldn't resist tossing in a weird ending involving the star player's coming back from the dead I would have preferred a psychologically weird ending, with coach Panciers losing the big game but retaining his dignity while coach Lowell freaked out because revenge did not live up to his overblown expectations.

"Day of the Cliche" had an intriguing idea, that of someone who speaks only in cliches (I know a couple of guys like that!) but it seems **Greg Potter** ran out of believable and amusing ideas to carry the story forward and reeorted to a bizarre, unsatisfying conclusion **Steve Grant's** "Daddy's Gone A-Hunting" had **Joe Staton's** effective art and a plot with possibilities, but the short length reeulted in a oonfused, incomplete mishmash robbed of much of its dramatic impact

Gerry Boudreau had the issue's best entry with "The Consumers," chilling in its view of a possible apoclaypse in that its causes were similar to today's conditions The busy **Mr. Boudreau** teamed with the ever-appearing **Rich Margopoulos** for the remaining two stories "Eyewitness Newe," which must have been written after seeing the movie "Network" on TV, and "Mother Zenobia," which, I'm afraid, had little to recommend it other than **Gonzalo Mayo's** fine art

"T.M. MAPLE"
Toronto, Ontario

Warren does it again! **CREEPY #135** was a rootin' tootin' issue . even though the cover was the only reason I needed to buy the mag! Has **Richard Courtney** ever done cover designs for **Warren** before? I hope to see more of him in the future

My compliments also on "Angel Hair" What a fantastic etory! Best of the issue, though, was "Yonder Star" The suspense was riveting!

CREEPY #135 was an outstanding effort Once again, **Warren** shows it's got guts (get it?)

DENNIS GREENWALD
Walled Lake, Mich.

I was really impressed by "Mother Zenobia and the Satan Glass" It had a unique setting and a gripping plot **Gerry Boudreau, Rich Margopoulos** and **Gonzalo Mayo** deserve congratulations!

One problem, though Whatever happened to the "printed" look of the lettering? The "type" look is kind of boring to read. **CREEPY #136** was the first I'd read for a while (I collected them back in the 70's) and I loved the art and the stories, but I missed the old hand lettering With its loss, a certain charm was taken away from the magazine.

G. HANFLAND
Sigel, Ill.

In addition to being more uniform and versatile than hand lettering, machine lettering is much faster and cheaper to produce. We also feel it has a handsomer appearance...which most readers come to appreciate after getting used to the change. So, machine lettering is here to stay! In fact, we'll be surprised if our competitors haven't followed our lead within a few years.

CREEPY #136 was a bit weak when it came down to scaring anybody, but the quality of the stories and art was well above the other **Warren** magazines this month

"Consumers" was a rarity--a **really** gory story that didn't have blood oozing out of every wound It was also the only tale that befitted the title of the magazine. it gave me the creeps. It gets first place

"All the Time in the World" and "Daddy's Gone A-Hunting" were very, very strange But I like weird stories They get second and third place

"Mother Zenobia" takes fourth, though I've read better The art was the strength of the tale and created a dark, moody story out of a mediocre script Well done, **Gonzalo Mayo.**

"Eyewitness News" and "Never Say Die" were the typical **Warren** fare without the believability, horror and great art of the old days Too bad-- I might have liked them They get fifth and sixth place instead

"Day of the Cliche" was stupid, but funny. It gets honorable mention.

CREEPY #136 was nice, but not great I hate 'nice' Get smart, or get out. Give us more theme issues, or monster stories, or **something.** Just so long as they raise the ol' goosebumps

GLENN DRESSLER
Kankakee, Ill.

With **CREEPY #135** I relived the horrors which as a child embedded themselves in my memory and kept me awake at night. The good old days are back, courtesy of "The Wedding Gift."

I savored **Fred Carrillo's** artistic technique and **Budd Lewis'** menacing captions They grabbed my attention, sustained it, and then manipulated it mercilessly Both of these men keep alive an "exaggerated" realism and capture the gore, brutality and sheer disgust of true horror Bravo!

I hope to see more from the team of **Carrillo** and **Lewis** in the very near future.

SUSAN McENTEE
Flushing, N.Y.

CREEPY #136 was the best **Warren** magazine I've ever read! And in reference to a letter in this issue's column, in which **J. Sherman** rated #134 a 9, for my money **#136 was a** 10! I won't itemize every story because all were excellent and so was the artwork Nice going, guys!

KEVIN SHERLEY
Norcross, Fla.

Richard Courtney is in my mind the best cover artist working for **Warren** since **Ken Kelly.** Now that they're both contributing regularly, I am looking forward to any new covers by these two masters

The first story of **CREEPY #136** was disastrous. "All the Time in the World" described the people of the 1930's as irresponsible, ignorant and stupid The average person of the time didn't really say things like "By golly, you're right Gramps" and "Gee whillikers, this is the swellest adventure a guy ever had" **Fred Carrillo** is a talented artist, but art alone cannot carry a story

If all writers were half as good as **Gerry Boudreau,** I wouldn't care if second graders drew the stories! His first story, "Never Say Die," was the best of his four found in the issue The tension between the two men was built up so suspensefully, I found myself rushing through the story just to find out the ending When I finally got there, I wasn't disappointed, though the supernatural element could have been explained in more detail I know **Martin Salvador** gets a lot of guff from readers, but he is one of the few comic artists around today who can draw people who look **human!**

B.E. DATIRNAD
West New York, N.J.

SEND COMMENTS TO: DEAR UNCLE CREEPY, WARREN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 145 E. 32nd STREET, N.Y., N.Y. 10016

WRIGHTSON
GREETINGS CREEPY READERS! WITH THIS ISSUE I AM CONFIDENT THAT I CAN WORM MY WAY INTO YOUR HEART!
THIS CREEPY IS CRAWLING WITH PSYCHOPATHS, TELEPATHS, GHASTLY DEEDS AND GHOST SHIPS! IT'S GOT MURDERERS, MUMMIES, WOLVES, WIZARDS, DERELICTS AND DRAGONS IN SPACE!
TAKE THE BAIT, READERS! THIS ISSUE IS A GIANT!

Author JOHN JACOBSON/Illustrator DELANDO NINO

GOTTA LITTLE MONEY FOR SOME *FOOD?*
N-NO, LADY ...*AW GOD!*
"*GAK!*" LADY... *PLEASE!* I--!
MY GOD! WHAT CAME OVER ME? I I JUST *KILLED* A MAN!
AAAAGHGH!
AS THE HARMLESS DERELICT *PLUMMETS* INTO THE RIVER FAR *BELOW*. .CAROLINE *BLINKS* AS IF BEING STARTLED *AWAKE!* AS THE MAN *THRASHES* IN THE NIGHT-BLACKENED WATERS AND *DISAPPEARS*...THE PALPABLE CHAINS OF A *DREAMSTATE* MELT *AWAY!*

WAIT! COME BACK! I MEAN YOU NO HARM!
CAROLINE DARLING! HOME AT LAST!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MA AM? HAVE YOU BEEN ATTACKED?
TH-THE POLICE! THEY VE FOUND ME OUT ALREADY!
FATHER I'M SO SORRY!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! BUT SYLVIA IS DEAD. NOTHING CAN BRING HER BACK!
SYLVIA? THE GIRL YOU WROTE ME ABOUT?
YES MA'AM! EARLIER TONIGHT, SOMEONE WITH INHUMAN STRENGTH BUSTED INTO HER APARTMENT, STRANGLED HER BROKE HER NECK, AND THREW HER FROM A THIRD FLOOR WINDOW!
I'LL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN TO CATCH THE KILLER!
THIS VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE DEATH OF HER FATHER'S CLOSE FRIEND SENDS CHILLS THROUGH CAROLINE! THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE POLICEMAN TO BE SO GRAPHIC!
SOMEONE FROM THE YARD WILL CONTACT YOU!
MEANWHILE, PORTIA WRITHES UNDER THE COLD PUNISHMENT OF A DREAM THAT IS ALL TOO REAL! IT IS THE BURDEN SHE MUST BEAR FOR POSSESSING A MEDALLION WHICH, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, BELONGED TO AN EGYPTIAN SORCERER ..A MEDALLION THAT ALLOWS HER MIND TO ENTER THE BODY OF THE MUMMY!

THE MEDALLION IS RETURNED...
...AND PORTIA WAKENS TO FIND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE!
NOW IT IS CAROLINE'S TURN TO ENTERTAIN NIGHTMARES! SHE DREAMS OF STRANGLING SOMEONE! BUT, STRANGELY, THE VICTIM, ONCE A MAN, BECOMES A WOMAN...AND CAROLINE'S ARMS ARE WRAPPED IN ROTTING CLOTH!
"I AM IN MY FATHER'S HOME!" SHE TELLS HERSELF, DESPERATELY TRYING TO SWIM AGAINST THE SILLOWING CURRENT OF HER DREAMS. "I AM SAFE HERE. SAFE HERE!"
CAROLINE AWAKENS... SCREAMING!
THE NEXT MORNING...!
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM? I'M FROM THE YARD!
GIRL MURDERED
THROWN FROM APARTMENT WINDOW
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH LAURENCE LAMB, IF I MAY!
OF COURSE! I'M CERTAIN HE'S NOT BUSY!
HAS THERE BEEN ANY PROGRESS, INSPECTOR?
WE THINK THAT THE MURDER WAS INTENDED AS A WARNING AGAINST YOU BY EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS! YOU ARE WELL-KNOWN FOR HAVING REMOVED HISTORICAL TREASURES FROM THEIR COUNTRY!

YOU'LL HAVE MY COMPLETE *COOPERATION* INSPECTOR!
YOU BELIEVE THAT SYLVIA S *DEATH* WAS NO MORE THAN AN *ACCIDENT?*
GOOD! WE LL GO ON A *PUB CRAWL* TONIGHT EH AND TRY TO *ATTRACT* THEIR *FIRE* SO TO SPEAK!
THAT IS *CORRECT* BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE *NEXT* ATTEMPT WILL BE ON *YOU!* THAT S WHY WITH YOUR *PERMISSION* I WILL BE STANDING GUARD OVER YOU FOR A WHILE!
PORTIA I MUST *SPEAK* WITH YOU *PRIVATELY!*
PORTIA MAKE A RESERVATION FOR *TWO* AT THE *ORONES CLUB* FOR *TONIGHT* WILL YOU?
GOODNESS CAROL! YOU LOOK *TERRIBLE!*
CAROLINE MY DEAR! YOU *KNOW* THE *INSPECTOR* I BELIEVE?
SEE HE DIDN'T EVEN *NOTICE* HOW *TIRED* HOW *PALE* I AM! HE *MEANS* WELL BUT HE CONCENTRATES ON HIS *WORK* AND HIS *WOMEN!*
YOUR FATHER'S GOING TO A *LECTURE* WE LL BE UNDISTURBED IN HIS *OFFICE!*
HAVING *FUN* MY DEAR GETTING *REACQUAINTED* WITH *LONDON?*
Y-YES YES OF *COURSE!*

LAST NIGHT I KILLED A MAN I TNREW HIM OFF A BRIDGE! THAT WAS HORRIBLE ENDUGN... B-BUT LATER I DREAMED THE MURDER AND, IN THE DREAM THE VICTIM BECAME A WOMAN! THERE WERE BANDAGES...! I-IT'S TNE MUMMY...! IT DBSESSES ME!
LET ME TRY SOMETHING! I DO IT OFTEN TO RELIEVE YOUR FATHER S NEADACNES!
ANYTHIND! TRY ANYTNING!
IT'S CALLED NYPNDTISM! WITH IT I CAN PRDBE THE VERY DEPTNS OF YOUR SDUL!
JUST RELAX YOUR MUSCLES AND FOLLOW THE SWINGING POCKETWATCN!
CAROLINE FALLS INTO A TRANCE...AND PORTIA TAKES HER FURTHER AND FURTHER BACK IN TIME! SUDDENLY, CAROLINE REPLIES TO A QUESTION IN A LANGUAGE WHICH PORTIA DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK? I AM THE PRINCESS CNESME ANANKA!
CAROLINE NO MATTER WNERE... OR WHO... YOU ARE, YOU MUST ALWAYS REPLY TO ME IN ENGLISN!
AS CAROLINE RECLINES PEACEFULLY PORTIA'S MIND WANDERS BACK A FEW YEARS TO A DAY IN THE OFFICE OF THE FAMILY SOLICITOR!
IN VIEW OF YOUR SISTER'S SUICIDE, YOU ARE THE SDLE NEIR TO THE ESTATE OF YOUR LATE UNCLE!
GREAT DOD! CAROLINE IS THE REINCARNATION OF THE MUMMY IN THE DISPLAY ROOM! NO WDNDER SHE HAS FELT DISTURBED SINCE WE HAVE BEEN SO ACTIVE IN OUR WORK!
AND WHAT DOES THE ESTATE CONSIST OF?

YOUR UNCLE WAS A POOR *BUSINESSMAN!* I'M AFRAID HE LOST *EVERYTHINO...* EVERYTHING SAVE THIS ANCIENT *MEDALLION* AND THE CONTENTS OF THIS *ENVELOPE!*

AS PORTIA READ THE *LETTER*, HER LAST *HOPES* OF A *FORTUNE* WERE *OASHED!*

"THIS *MEDALLION* IS *ALL* I HAVE *LEFT!* I CONSIDERED *DESTROYING* IT BUT ITS *POWER* IS TOO *AWESOME*, ITS VERY *EXISTENCE* OF CRUCIAL *IMPORTANCE!* WITH THE MEDALLION AND FIERCE *CONCENTRATION* OF *MIND*, ONE CAN *ENTER* AND *CONTROL* THE EMBALMED *BODIES* OF EGYPTIAN *MUMMIES!*"

PORTIA *TESTED* THE MEDALLION'S *POWER* IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM ..AND IT HAD *WORKEO!*

IF MY *SISTER* HAD NOT COMMITTED *SUICIOE*... WE *TOGETHER* COULD HAVE *SAVED* MY FATHER S *BUSINESS! ALONE* I COULD DO *NOTHINGI* AND TO THINK THAT SHE *KILLED HERSELF* AFTER BEING *TOSSEO ASIOE* WHILE WITH *CHILO* BY ..

BY *PROFESSOR LAURENCE LAMB!*

FATHER?

HUSH... PRETTY CHILD! YOU ARE *RESTING!*

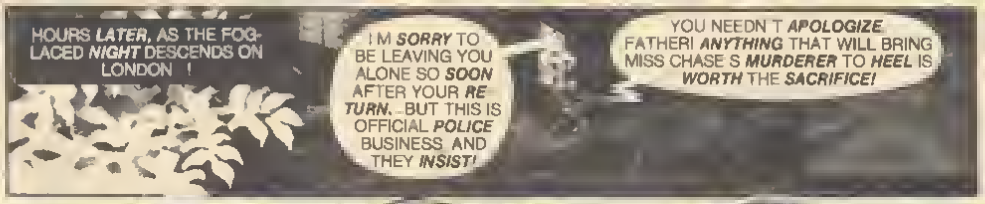
AND *YOU* SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF MY *REVENGE* AGAINST YOUR *FATHER!*

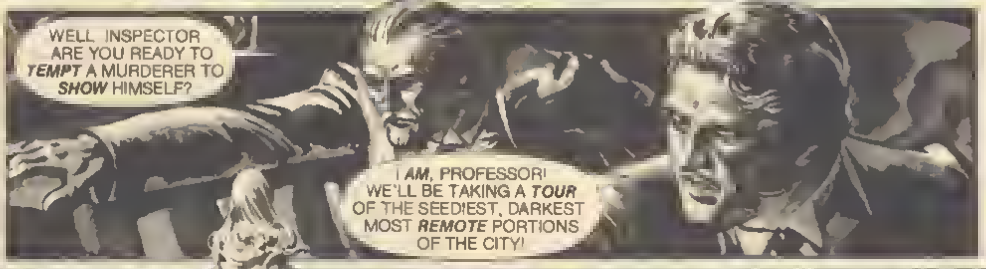
THERE MUST BE SOME *PSYCHIC LINK* BETWEEN *CAROLINE* AND THE *BODY* SHE *INHABITEO* FOUR THOUSAND YEARS *AOO!* BECAUSE WHEN *I KILLED* LAST NIGHT *CAROLINE* KILLED SOMEONE *ELSE* IN THE *SAME MANNER!*

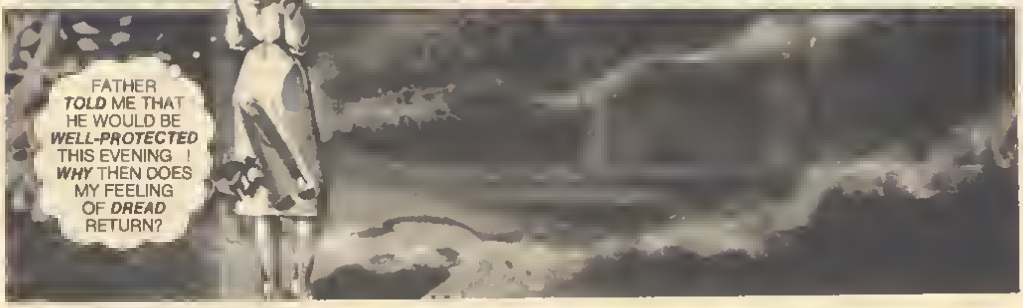
I CAN EXPLOIT THIS LINK! KILLING THOSE *CLOSE* TO HIM AS WAS MY *ORIGINAL* PLAN WILL *NOT* BE *ENOUOH!* I SHALL REDUCE HIS *OAUGHTER* TO A SAVAGE *MURDERER*, AND TURN HER LOOSE *AGAINST* HIM!

YOU ARE STILL UNDER MY *POWER*, CAROLINE! *TONIGHT* I WILL GIVE YOU A *PACKAOE!* AT *MIONIGHT* YOU WILL GIVE THIS PRESENT TO YOUR FATHER S FRIEND THE *POLICE INSPECTOR!*

CLIK!
MY GOD ...IT WORKS! WHATEVER YOU DID WHILE I WAS IN THE TRANCE HAS REJUVENATED ME!
WHEN YOU AWAKEN FROM THIS TRANCE YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING UNTIL MIDNIGHT! UNTIL THEN YOU WILL FEEL AS THOUGH ALL YOUR PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SOLVED! AT THE SNAP OF MY FINGER YOU WILL AWAKEN!
I DON T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT WAS BOTHERING ME! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO HAVEN T YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?
YES NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT DON'T YOU HAVE A PACKAGE TO GIVE ME?


HOURS LATER, AS THE FOG-LACED NIGHT DESCENDS ON LONDON !
I M SORRY TO BE LEAVING YOU ALONE SO SOON AFTER YOUR RE-TURN. BUT THIS IS OFFICIAL POLICE BUSINESS AND THEY INSIST!
YOU NEEDN T APOLOGIZE, FATHER! ANYTHING THAT WILL BRING MISS CHASE S MURDERER TO HEEL IS WORTH THE SACRIFICE!


WELL INSPECTOR ARE YOU READY TO TEMPT A MURDERER TO SHOW HIMSELF?
I AM, PROFESSOR! WE'LL BE TAKING A TOUR OF THE SEEDIEST, DARKEST MOST REMOTE PORTIONS OF THE CITY!


FATHER TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE WELL-PROTECTED THIS EVENING ! WHY THEN DOES MY FEELING OF DREAD RETURN?

BUT THE EVENING PASSES UNEVENTFULLY FOR PROFESSOR LAMB AND THE INSPECTOR, AND SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT...!
CAROLINE! I'M HOME!
IS IT THAT LATE ALREADY?
NEARLY MIDNIGHT! THE INSPECTOR WILL STAY A WHILE TO BE SURE THAT NO ASSASSINS ARE LURKING ABOUT, EH INSPECTOR?
QUITE RIGHT!
AND AS THE MIDNIGHT BELL CHIMES PONDEROUSLY
PORTIA EVOKES THE MEDALLION'S CHARM!
THE MUMMY OF CHESME-ANANKA SHUFFLES FROM ITS COFFIN!
AS PORTIA SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR IN HER HYPNOTIC TRANCE...THE ANCIENT, BROODING SHE-CREATURE WITHDRAWS A SWORD FROM ITS JEWELED SHEATH!
MEANWHILE...!
OH FATHER! I FORGOT...! I BROUGHT THIS PACKAGE!
CAROLINE ACTS WITH STUDIED PRECISION, THOUGH SHE IS SUDDENLY DIZZY AND DISORIENTED! A MIST SEEMS TO FALL OVER HER MIND...! SHE KNOWS SHE IS INSIDE HER HOME, YET SHE SEES. FOG...AND TREES!
THE EXPRESSIONLESS CREATURE EMERGES FROM THE MUSEUM INTO THE MIST-SHROUDED NIGHT! AT THE INSISTENT URGING OF THE VOICE OF PORTIA, IT CASTS ABOUT FOR A VICTIM!

IT S A THANK YOU GIFT, I GUESS, FOR GUARDING FATHER! BUT LET S WAIT UNTIL THE HOUR IS RUNG!
AWFULLY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU BUT HARDLY NECESSARY!
HERE ..FOR YOU!
THE SWORD FROM THE MUSEUM...? CAROLINE WHAT--?
QUITE FANTASTIC! REALLY!
UNDERSTAND YOUR BEWILDERMENT FATHER! GIVE ME THE SWORD! I WILL DEMONSTRATE WHAT I MEAN...!
HUG!
THWOK!
CAROLINE! MY GOD NOOOOOO!
AND AT THE SAME MOMENT, ON A DARK SIDESTREET NEAR THE MUSEUM, THE MUMMY STANDS OVER THE MUTILATED BODY OF AN UNFORT-UNATE PASSER-BY!
F-FATHER! WH WHAT HAS HAPPENED? OH OH MY GOD!

THIS HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE MUMMY!
NO TIME TO SIT AROUND CRYING I'VE GOT TO ACT!
CAROLINE WAIT!
TAKE ME TO THE MUSEUM, WILL YOU?
YOU TALKED ME INTO IT!

MOVING AS IF IN A NIGHTMARE, WITH THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE MUMMY LIKE A FILM OVER HER MIND, CAROLINE ENTERS THE MUSEUM
THE CASE EMPTY! AND IS THAT PORTIA ON THE FLOOR OVER THERE?

WHILE THE MUMMY SKULKS IN WAIT FOR TWO POLICEMEN!
BE ON YOUR TOES TONIGHT MATE! THERE'S BEEN A MURDER AT THE LAMB RESIDENCE!
BLOODY HORRIBLE MURDER IT WAS TOO!
HEY... WHAT'S THAT?
YOU THERE... HALT! THIS IS THE POLICE!
I'LL GO AROUND THIS WAY MATE YOU HEAD 'EM OFF AT THE OTHER END!
THERE'LL BE A PROMOTION IN THIS FOR ANYONE WHO CATCHES THE KILLER!

THE MUMMY BEHEADS THE POLICEMAN WITH ONE STROKE AND THEN SHUFFLES STIFFLY TO THE MUSEUM, WHERE A HORRID SIGHT ASSAULTS ITS EYES!
THWACK!
PORTIA PORTIA I AM POSSESSED BY DEMONS OF HELL!
YET IT IS YOUR DOING... AND YOUR UNDOING! YOURS! YOURS!
YOURS!
PORTIA'S CASUAL MURDER OF THE POLICEMAN HAS FORCED CAROLINE TO KILL AGAIN...IMPRISONING PORTIA'S MIND FOREVER IN THE MUMMY'S BODY! HER MIND SPINS OVER THE EDGE OF SANITY...AND SHE ATTACKS!
WHAT THE DERANGED MIND OF PORTIA FORGETS IS THAT THE MURDEROUS DRIVES THAT TWIST THE MUMMY'S MIND ARE SHARED BY CAROLINE AT THE SAME TIME!
KANG!
AS IF THEY WERE TWO PARTS OF THE SAME BEING, NO STRATEGY OR TACTIC CAN BE KEPT SECRET FROM THE OTHER! EACH OFFENSIVE MOVE IS MET BY THE CORRECT DEFENSIVE MOVE
UNTIL FATE INTERVENES! CAROLINE'S BLADE IS BROKEN OFF IN THE HEATED CLASH, AND SHE IS LEFT DEFENSELESS!

BUT HER OWN *OUTRAGE* OVER HAVING HER VERY *SOUL INVADED* GIVES CAROLINE REDOUBLED *STRENGTH!*

EVEN IF I MUST *DIE*, I SHALL DRAG *YOU* DOWN TO HELL *WITH* ME!

NO! YOU SHAN'T WIN OVER *ME*, SHE DEMON!

DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE!

FOR *HELL* HAS *AWAITED* YOU FOR *FOUR THOUSAND YEARS!*

WITH THE BODY OF THE MUMMY *DESTROYED*, THE MIND OF PORTIA *PASSES* ON, AND THE SUPERNATURAL LINK *EVAPORATES!*

GOD *HELP* US!

WH-WHAT *HAPPENED* TO ME? FATHER I *KILLED* SO MANY *PEOPLE!*

THE *POLICE* ARE *WAITING*, CAROLINE! *I'LL* STAND *BY* YOU! SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* CAME OVER YOU SOMETHING *STRANGE* AND *INEXPLICABLE!*

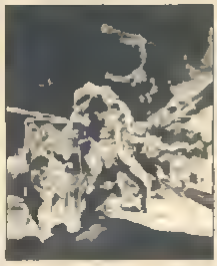
BUT WE'LL *EXPLAIN!* THEY'LL *BELIEVE* THEY *MUST!*

BUT *WILL* THEY BELIEVE? *CAN* THEY?

end

FULL COLOR PORTFOLIOS!

NEAL ADAMS, A MASTER OF CONTEMPORARY FANTASTIC ART! NOW HIS WORK CAN BE YOURS TO DISPLAY! ORDER BOTH SETS FOR A COMPLETE COLLECTION!



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Four of Neal Adams' finest illustrations are reproduced here as full color 11x14 inch plates! Included with this set is a full color folder to contain both sets of prints! #28046—$7.95

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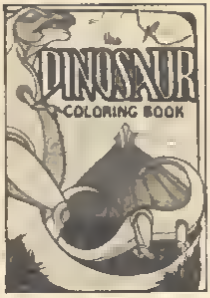

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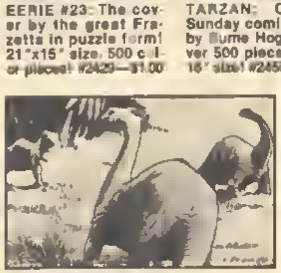

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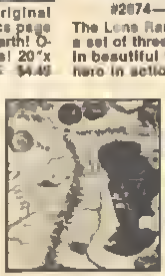

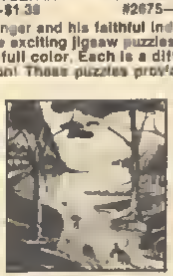

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DERELICT!

MORE THAN FORTY YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE NEARLY SUNKEN DERELICT HAD BEEN IN FULL OPERATION! DESPITE THE BREWING STORM, BOTH RAYMOND ALEXANDER AND HIS YOUNG SON, SAM, WERE EAGER TO FIND OUT HOW AND WHY THE VESSEL HAD REMAINED AFLOAT, DRIFTING THROUGH THE OPEN SEAS FOR CLOSE TO HALF A CENTURY!

Author DANIELLE DuBAY/Illustrator FRED CARRILLO

CAREFULLY, THE SEAMAN AND HIS EXCITED SON CLAMBERED ONTO THE DECK OF THE LISTING SHIP!
HOW COME IT DIDN T SINK ALL THE WAY, DAD?

I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE THE CREW SEALED OFF THE DAMAGED COMPARTMENTS AS IT WENT DOWN!
TRAPPED AIR IS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD HAVE KEPT IT AFLOAT ALL THESE YEARS!

LET'S GO BELOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL WARSHIP BEFORE ESPECIALLY A GERMAN ONE!
I DON'T KNOW, SON! IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!

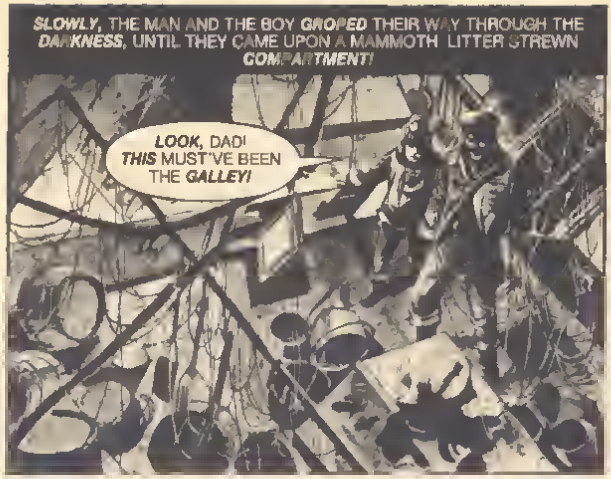
PLEASE DAD! IF IT S STAYED AFLOAT ALL THIS TIME IT S NOT ABOUT TO SINK JUST BECAUSE THE SEA IS A LITTLE ROUGH!
I GUESS A QUICK LOOK AROUND WOULDN'T HURT! BESIDES I M JUST AS ANXIOUS AS YOU TO SEE THIS OLD TUB!

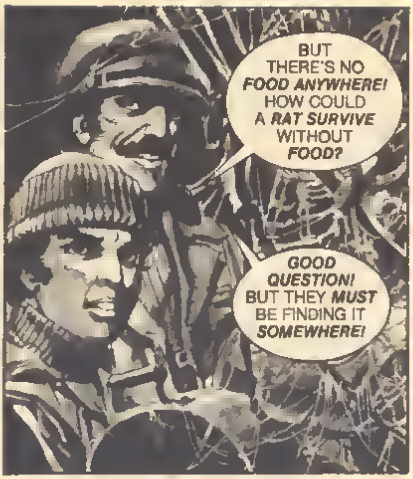
CAUTIOUSLY, THE SEAMAN PUSHED OPEN A RUSTED, COBWEB-SMOTHERED HATCH WHEN SUDDENLY...!
WHAT THE--?
DID YOU SEE THAT DAD? SOMETHING MOVED IN THE SHADOWS!

IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A RAT!

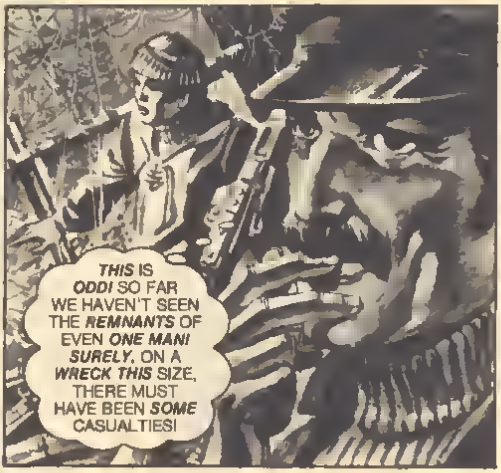
IF YOU'RE SCARED.. WE CAN LEAVE, SON!

NO NO! I'M OKAY! I WANT TO SEE MORE, DAD! REALLY I DO!

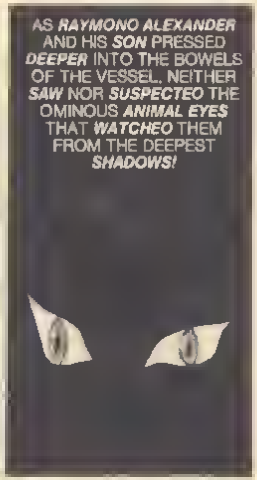

SLOWLY, THE MAN AND THE BOY GROPED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DARKNESS, UNTIL THEY CAME UPON A MAMMOTH LITTER STREWN COMPARTMENT!
LOOK, DAD! THIS MUST'VE BEEN THE GALLEY!


BUT THERE'S NO FOOD ANYWHERE! HOW COULD A RAT SURVIVE WITHOUT FOOD?
GOOD QUESTION! BUT THEY MUST BE FINDING IT SOMEWHERE!

DOWN ANOTHER CORRIDOR JUST PAST THE GALLEY, THE TWO ENTERED A LARGE MUNITIONS ROOM CLUTTERED WITH RUSTING GERMAN WEAPONRY!
WOW! LOOK! AT ALL THOSE GUNS ..!


THIS IS ODD! SO FAR WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE REMNANTS OF EVEN ONE MAN! SURELY, ON A WRECK THIS SIZE, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME CASUALTIES!

I WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ALL THE BODIES!?

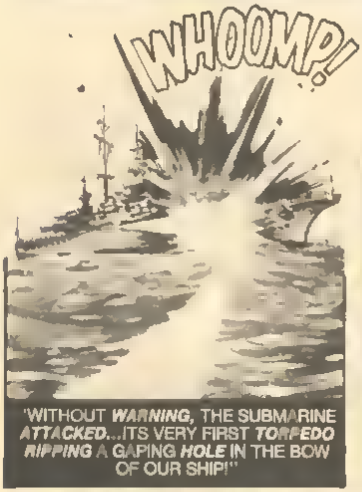

AS RAYMOND ALEXANDER AND HIS SON PRESSED DEEPER INTO THE BOWELS OF THE VESSEL, NEITHER SAW NOR SUSPECTED THE OMINOUS ANIMAL EYES THAT WATCHED THEM FROM THE DEEPEST SHADOWS!

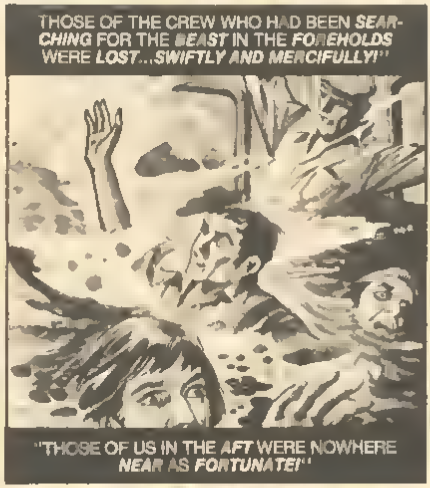
CAUTIOUSLY, THE TWO MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE ENGINE ROOM OF THE OLD VESSEL!
GOSH, DAD! I'VE NEVER SEEN ENGINES SO BIG BEFORE!
YOU VE GOT TO REMEMBER, THE GERMANS HAD THE MOST POWERFUL NAVY ON THE SEAS!
BUT WHAT INTERESTS ME MORE IS THIS HALF-FLOODED HOLD!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THE HATCHES ARE STILL AIRTIGHT ENOUGH TO KEEP THIS OLD TUB AFLOAT!
AGHHHH! DAD! TH-THERE S SOMETHING IN THE WATER!
HAHAHA! IT S JUST A FISH THAT SOMEHOW MUST'VE FOUND ITS WAY IN WITH THE TRAPPED WATERS!
AT LEAST YOU KNOW NOW WHAT THE RATS EAT!
DON'T WORRY! THERE S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF ON THIS SHIP!

LOOK SAMMY! THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN!
MAYBE WE CAN LOCATE HIS LOG AND FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THIS OLD SHIP!
WOW! HIS SEXTANT! WHAT A SOUVENIR!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING EVEN BETTER...THE SHIP'S LOG!
GOOD OOD! THIS IS THE JOURNAL OF HANS LANGSDORFF—CAPTAIN OF THE INFAMOUS GERMAN BATTLESHIP THE GRAF SPEE!
AND THIS— THIS MUST BE THE GRAF SPEE! BUT BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SHE WAS SCUTTLED BY HER OWN MEN OFF THE COAST OF URUGUAY IN 1939!
IT SAYS HERE THAT LANGSDORFF AND HIS CREW WERE ON A LAST FORAY IN SOUTH AMERICAN WATERS WHEN THEY HAPPENED UPON BRITISH COMMODORE H H HARWOOD'S SOUTH ATLANTIC CRUISER SQUADRON!"
"'WE HAVE ENGAGED AND SUCCESSFULLY DESTROYED THE ENGLISH VESSEL EXETER, AND ARE ABOUT TO TURN OUR GUNS ON HARWOOD'S HOPELESSLY OUTMATCHED AJAX AND ACHILLES!' LANGSDORFF WRITES!"

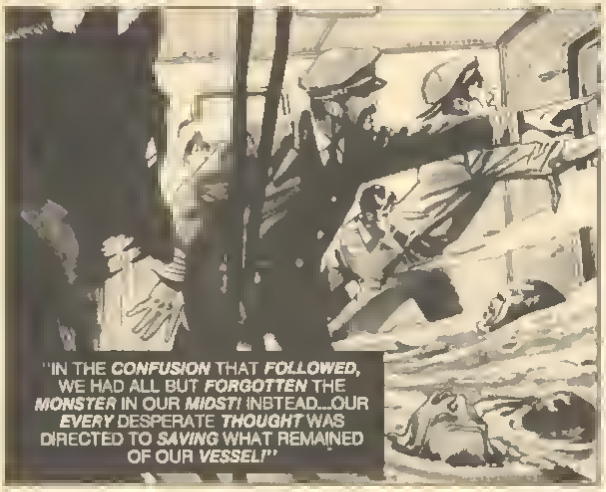
"IN THE CONFUSION OF BATTLE, EXACT DETAILS ARE OFTEN UNCERTAIN..."
"I SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT A SURVIVING BRITISH SEAMAN SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SLIP ABOARD THE GRAF SPEE UNDETECTED .."
"...A SEAMAN, LIKE
AIEEEEEE!
"IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT WE WERE UNDER ATTACK FROM A SOURCE FAR MORE SINISTER THAN HARWOOD'S DAMAGED FLEET, WHEN, IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE, THE BODIES OF TWO OF OUR MEN WERE DISCOVERED ..."
MEIN GOTT!
"BREAKING OFF THE BATTLE WITH THE AJAX AND ACHILLES, WE RAN FOR THE NEUTRAL WATERS OF URUGUAY, AS I ORDERED A THOROUGH SEARCH FOR THE INTRUDER!"
"IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT THE CREATURE BOLDLY MADE HIMSELF KNOWN! HE ATTACKED AGAIN, BODILY LEAPING INTO ONE SEARCH PARTY AFTER ANOTHER, GNASHING...TEARING...KILLING AND CONSUMING MY MEN EVEN AS THOSE WHO HAD BEEN INJURED AND MUTILATED BEYOND RECOGNITION FLED FOR THEIR VERY LIVES!"
"MUTILATED AND PARTIALLY EATEN!"

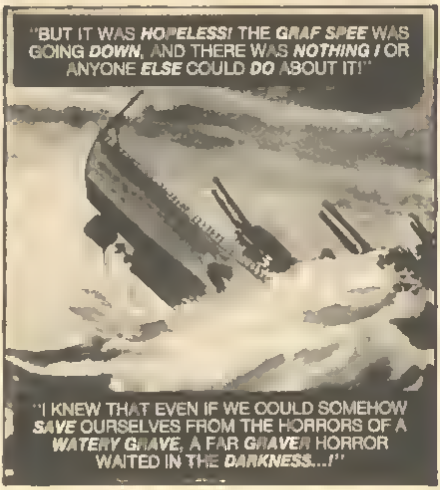
A WEREWOLF, YOU SAY? GOTT IN HIMMEL SUCH A THING CAN NOT BE POSSIBLE!
"YET, EVEN AS WE FOUND THE ENEMY WITHIN, ANOTHER LONE WOLF, EQUALLY DANGEROUS, WAS ABOUT TO BARE ITS FANGS WITHOUT!"


WHOOMP!
"WITHOUT WARNING, THE SUBMARINE ATTACKED...ITS VERY FIRST TORPEDO RIPPING A GAPING HOLE IN THE BOW OF OUR SHIP!"


THOSE OF THE CREW WHO HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE BEAST IN THE FOREHOLDS WERE LOST...SWIFTLY AND MERCIFULLY!"
"THOSE OF US IN THE AFT WERE NOWHERE NEAR AS FORTUNATE!"

SEAL OFF THE FORWARD HATCHES QUICKLY!


"IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, WE HAD ALL BUT FORGOTTEN THE MONSTER IN OUR MIDST! INSTEAD...OUR EVERY DESPERATE THOUGHT WAS DIRECTED TO SAVING WHAT REMAINED OF OUR VESSEL!"


"BUT IT WAS HOPELESS! THE GRAF SPEE WAS GOING DOWN, AND THERE WAS NOTHING I OR ANYONE ELSE COULD DO ABOUT IT!"
"I KNEW THAT EVEN IF WE COULD SOMEHOW SAVE OURSELVES FROM THE HORRORS OF A WATERY GRAVE, A FAR GRAVER HORROR WAITED IN THE DARKNESS...!"

THAT S WHERE THE LOG *ENDS*, DAD? BUT, THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *SURVIVORS?*

I DON T *KNOW*, SAMMY! MAYBE THEY WERE *RESCUED* BY *ANOTHER* GERMAN *SHIP*, OR--!

OR MAYBE THE *WEREWOLF* GOT THEM!

FORGET THESE STORIES OF *WERE-WOLVES*, SON! THE CAPTAIN WAS *BATTLE-FATIGUED* ..OR DRIVEN *MAD* BY THE LOSS OF HIS *COMMAND!*

IN *ANY* EVENT, WE KNOW *NOW* THAT THE GRAF SPEE WASN'T *SCUTTLED* BY HER CREW!

C'MON , LET S GET BACK TO *PORT!* I CAN T *WAIT* TO TELL *EVERYONE* WHAT WE VE *SEEN!*

BUT THE *SEAMAN* AND HIS *SON* ARE DESTINED *NEVER* TO SEE *PORT AGAIN*, FOR, JUST THEN !

D-DAD! IT IT'S THE *WERE-WOLF!*

WITH SAVAGE, RAVENOUS *FEROCITY*, THE *MONSTER LUNGES ..!*

S-SAMMY! R-RUN! RUN!!

N-NO! OH GOD.. *NOOOOO!*

MONS-TROUS GUTTURAL *GROWLS ECHO* THROUGH THE DEAD SHIP'S SHADOW-DRAPED COR-RIDORS!

AS THE BOY *FLEES*, HE ALMOST *CHOKES* ON THE BLOOD-NUMBING STENCH OF *DEATH!*

YET, *IS* IT DEATH HE SMELLS OR THE TERROR-LADEN *NIGHTMARE* THAT *SPRINGS* FROM THE *GLOOM?*

THE *CREATURES*...HALF-*HUMAN*, HALF-*ANIMAL*, *LUNGE* FOR HIM, AND SAMMY INSTANTLY KNOWS THAT *HE* IS GOING TO *DIE!*

YET, IN HIS *FINAL* MOMENTS OF *LIFE*, ALL THE TERRIFIED *YOUTH* CAN *THINK* OF IS .

SO *THIS* IS WHAT BECAME OF THE CREW OF THE *GRAF SPEE!"*

end

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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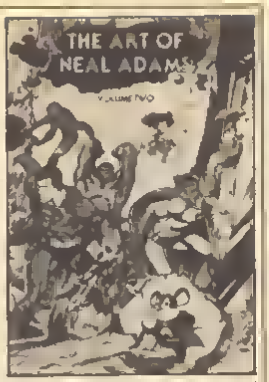

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ACTION ATTACK WARRIORS

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FOOLS AND KINGS!

IN THE KINGDOM OF ***LABRADOR***, IN THE NEONATAL YEARS OF EARTH, THERE LIVED A KING OF NOBLE HEART AND FEEBLE MIND CALLED ***MALIFUS***. A BENEVOLENT LORD ***LOVED*** BY HIS SUBJECTS AND ***ENVIED*** BY HIS COURTIERS!

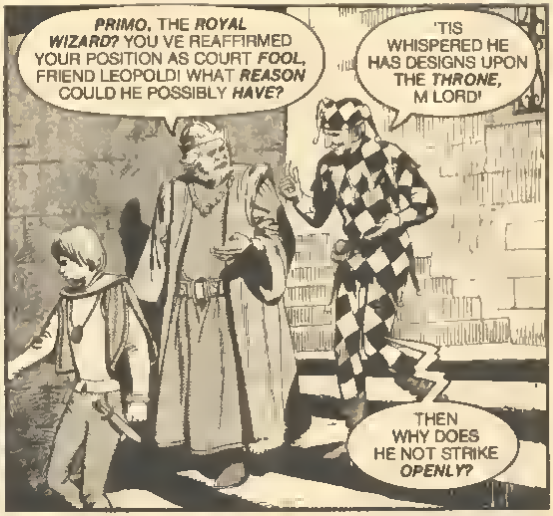
SOME WENT SO FAR AS TO ***COVET*** THE THRONE AND PLOT ITS ***USURPATION!***

THUS, IT CAME TO PASS THAT IN THE 27th YEAR OF HIS REIGN, HE WAS SEIZED BY ***NIGHTMARES*** SO ***BLOODCURDLING*** THAT EACH DAY BROUGHT HIM CLOSER TO THE BRINK OF ***MADNESS!***

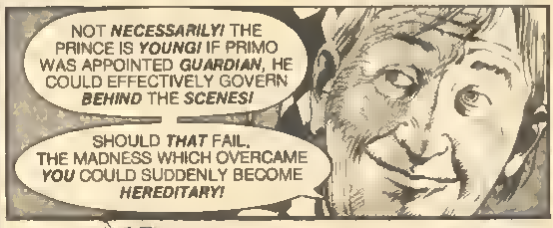
Author. **GERRY BOUDREAU**/Illustrator **MARTIN SALVADOR**

FATHER WAKE UP! YOU RE DREAMING AGAIN!
YOU'VE JUST SLAIN THE ROYAL BEDPILLOWS, SIRE!

MY AFFLICTION STEMS NOT FROM MADNESS OR BAD GRUEL! THERE IS EVIL MAGIC AFOOT! BUT WHOSE? I COUNT NO SORCERERS AMONG MY ENEMIES!
THE ONE TO WHOM THE CASTLE FALLS IS OFTEN FOUND WITHIN ITS WALLS!


PRIMO, THE ROYAL WIZARD? YOU VE REAFFIRMED YOUR POSITION AS COURT FOOL, FRIEND LEOPOLD! WHAT REASON COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE?
'TIS WHISPERED HE HAS DESIGNS UPON THE THRONE, M LORD!
THEN WHY DOES HE NOT STRIKE OPENLY?

YOU ARE TOO POPULAR! IF HE GRABBED THE THRONE BY FORCE, THE LOYALISTS WOULD DESPISE HIM! HE'D CONSTANTLY HAVE TO BE ON HIS GUARD! HOWEVER IF MADNESS MADE YOU INCOMPETENT, UNFIT TO RULE, THERE COULD BE NO OBJECTIONS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT REGINALD, MY SON? HE IS NEXT IN LINE FOR SUCCESSION! PRIMO WOULD HAVE TO ELIMINATE US BOTH!

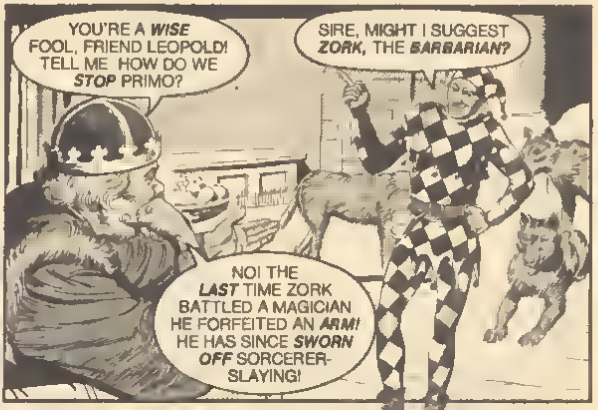

NOT NECESSARILY! THE PRINCE IS YOUNG! IF PRIMO WAS APPOINTED GUARDIAN, HE COULD EFFECTIVELY GOVERN BEHIND THE SCENES!
SHOULD THAT FAIL, THE MADNESS WHICH OVERCAME YOU COULD SUDDENLY BECOME HEREDITARY!

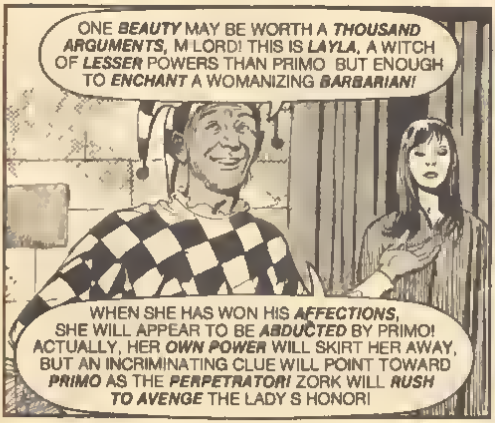
GUARDS! BRING PRIMO TO ME! HE'S BEEN A TRUSTED FRIEND OF MANY YEARS AND SHALL HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST THESE SCANDALS!

SO THE OLD FOOL WISHES TO *INTERROGATE* ME! WELL, BRING TO HIM THIS *MESSAGE*...I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED TO MAINTAIN THIS *CHARADE!* WHEN NEXT WE MEET, *I* SHALL BE *KING* AND *HE* BUT A FOND *MEMORY!*

NOW RUN TO MALIFUS LIKE THE *CURS* YOU ARE AND TELL HIM THAT HIS DAYS ARE *NUMBERED!* SOON I SHALL RETURN IN *TRIUMPH*, TO THIS KINGDOM, THIS *CASTLE!*
BUT FOR *NOW*..
FOOF!

WHOOSH!
I MUST *LEAVE* YOU! FARE THEE WELL!
THE WOLVES-WHO-WERE-ONCE-MEN RETAINED THE POWER OF *SPEECH*, AND SO, AS ORDERED RACED BACK TO THEIR KING TO REPORT THE WIZARD'S *WARNING!* THE KING WAS *ANGERED!*


YOU'RE A *WISE* FOOL, FRIEND LEOPOLD! TELL ME HOW DO WE *STOP* PRIMO?
SIRE, MIGHT I SUGGEST *ZORK*, THE *BARBARIAN?*
NO! THE *LAST* TIME ZORK BATTLED A MAGICIAN HE FORFEITED AN *ARM!* HE HAS SINCE *SWORN OFF* SORCERER-SLAYING!


ONE *BEAUTY* MAY BE WORTH A *THOUSAND ARGUMENTS*, M'LORD! THIS IS *LAYLA*, A WITCH OF *LESSER* POWERS THAN PRIMO BUT ENOUGH TO *ENCHANT* A WOMANIZING *BARBARIAN!*
WHEN SHE HAS WON HIS *AFFECTIONS*, SHE WILL APPEAR TO BE *ABDUCTED* BY PRIMO! ACTUALLY, HER *OWN POWER* WILL SKIRT HER AWAY, BUT AN INCRIMINATING CLUE WILL POINT TOWARD *PRIMO* AS THE *PERPETRATOR!* ZORK WILL *RUSH TO AVENGE* THE LADY'S HONOR!

WHY ARE YOU *HELPING* ME LIKE THIS LEOPOLD?
IF YOUR THRONE IS *SAVED*, YOUR JUST HEART WILL *REMEMBER* MY PART IN THIS AND REWARD ME *ACCORDINGLY!*
AS I SAID, YOU'RE A *WISE FOOL*, LEOPOLD!

IN THE HINDQUARTERS OF THE ***BLACK DOG TAVERN!*** ZORK THE BARBARIAN POURED WINE IN A STEADY STREAM FROM ***FLASK*** TO ***GULLET!*** SINCE THE END OF THE ***WAR MERCENARY*** MISSIONS WERE ***FEW!*** THE INACTIVITY HAD OF LATE MADE HIM ***RESTLESS*** AND ***IRRITABLE!***

BUT THEN, THE ***GIRL*** WALKED IN. !

TIS SAID YOU CARRY A ***LONG SWORD,*** BARBARIAN! I SHOULD LIKE TO ***SEE*** IT, SO I MAY ***JUDGE*** FOR ***MYSELF!***

BEFORE HE COULD UTTER A SULLEN ***'GO AWAY,'*** HIS EYES MET HERS AND THEIR VISION ***LOCKED!*** WITHOUT A WORD HE STOOD UP AND TOOK HER BY THE ***HAND!***

COME ***UPSTAIRS*** AWAY FROM THIS ***RABBLE.*** AND I'LL SHOW YOU ***DELIGHTS UNDREAMED*** OF!

SUCH ***GOOD FORTUNE*** MADE ZORK ***SUSPICIOUS,*** AND HE KEPT HIS SWORD BY HIS BEDSIDE! A ***WISE*** MOVE, FOR !

THE ***RUG!*** IT HAS BECOME A A ***DRAGON!***

HSSSS!

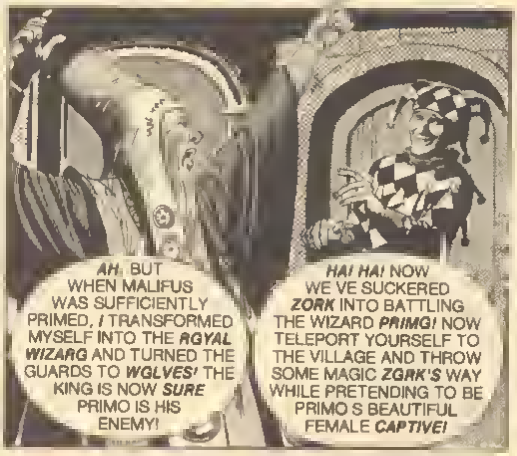
NAY, HELLSPAWN! I'LL ***SCATTER*** YOUR ***REMAINS*** ACROSS THE ***KINGDOM,*** AS I DID THE ***SORCERER*** WHO COST ME AN ***ARM!***

WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE ONLY SOUND IN THE TINY ROOM WAS ZORK'S LABORED BREATHING!
LAYLA?
AT FIRST HE THOUGHT SHE WAS HIDING, FRIGHTENED BY THE BEAST! BUT HE LOOKED EVERYWHERE...AND COULD NOT FIND HER!
SO THE MONSTER WAS ONLY A DECOY WHILE THE SORCERER KIDNAPPED LAYLA!
IF OTHERS FIND THAT I LET A MAGICIAN STEAL A LADY UNDER MY PROTECTION, MY REPUTATION WILL BE RUINED!
THOUGH I SWORE I'D NEVER AGAIN CHALLENGE A WIZARD I HAVE LITTLE CHOICE NOW!
THE ROYAL INSIGNIA OF MALIFUS! ONLY ONE SORCERER IN THE KINGDOM IS ALLOWED TO POSSESS THIS . . .PRIMO, THE WIZARD ROYAL!
ZORK WONDERED IF THIS WAS PRIMO'S OWN UNDERTAKING OR WAS HE ACTING ON ORDERS OF THE KING?
TO FIND THE TRUTH OF IT ZORK SPURRED TOWARD THE CASTLE WARY OF SIGNS OF A TRAP!
M LORD ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN! LAYLA HAS TRACED PRIMO TO A LAIR BY THE SEA . . !
THEN THAT IS WHERE WE SHALL SEND ZORK!

THE WIZARG ROYAL PLOTS TREACHERY AGAINST THE THRONE!
I KNOW NOT WHAT PART YOUR LAGY PLAYS IN HIS SCHEME BUT TO AVENGE HER ABDUCTION AND EARN YOURSELF THIS BAG OF GOLD, COME CLOSER! I WILL TELL YOU ALL I KNGW!
WHAT MALIFUS TOLD WAS CLOSE TO, BUT NOT QUITE, THE TAUTH!

WHILE, IN A HIDDEN GROTTO BENEATH THE PALACE...!
THE PLAN GOES BETTER THAN WE DARED HGPE, LAYLA! THERE WERE THREE OBSTACLES TO AN OPEN TAKEOVER MALIFUS, THE YOUNG PRINCE, AND PRIMG THE WIZARD!
NOW WE RE KILLING THREE BIRDS WITH GNE BARBARIAN!

INDEED! MINE WAS A BRILLIANT PLAN! TO PLANT DREAMS IN MALIFUS MIND AND SUGGEST THAT PRIMG WAS RESPONSIBLE, WHILE PLANTING GREAMS IN PRIMG'S MIND THAT PORTRAYED THE KING AS HIS ENEMY! THE WIZARD TOOK THEM AS PREGICTIGNS!
BUT IT WAS I WHO IN THE DEAG OF NIGHT, DRUGGEG PRIMG ANG CARTED HIM AWAY, WHERE HE IS NOW OUR PRISGNER IN A SMALL COASTAL VILLAGE!


AH, BUT WHEN MALIFUS WAS SUFFICIENTLY PRIMED, I TRANSFORMED MYSELF INTO THE RGYAL WIZARG AND TURNED THE GUARDS TO WGLVES! THE KING IS NOW SURE PRIMO IS HIS ENEMY!
HA! HA! NOW WE VE SUCKERED ZORK INTO BATTLING THE WIZARD PRIMG! NOW TELEPORT YOURSELF TO THE VILLAGE AND THROW SOME MAGIC ZGRK'S WAY WHILE PRETENDING TO BE PRIMO S BEAUTIFUL FEMALE CAPTIVE!

THEN WHEN ZORK IS ANGRY ENOUGH TO STRIKE AT ANYTHING, I'LL RELEASE THE REAL WIZARG JUST IN TIME TO BE SLAIN!
THEN WE PLANT A CLUE SUGGESTING THAT PRIMO WAS ACTING UNDER MALIFUS' ORDERS ANG ZORK WILL COME BACK TO HAVE HIS REVENGE UPON THE KING!

WE MUST BE SURE THAT PRIMO IS TOO DRUGGEG TO FIGHT BACK! AFTER ALL THE WHOLE PLOT REVOLVES AROUND ZORK KILLING PRIMO! IF ZORK FAILS, WE'RE FINISHEG!"

AH! A MONSTER APPEARS BENEATH MY HORSE'S HOOVES! THE WIZARD KNOWS OF MY APPROACH!

NO MATTER! KNOWING AND STOPPING ME ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
SLKT!

WITH NO OTHER OBSTACLES BARRING HIS PATH, ZORK RODE FURIOUSLY TO THE CASTLE AND ENTERED, BATTLE-READY!

HURL YOUR FIREBALLS, PRIMO! EVEN THEY CANNOT STOP ZORK, SLAYER OF WIZARDS!
FOSHSH!
GOOD! ZORK DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT "PRIMO" IS AN ILLUSION, AND THAT I AM ACTUALLY BEHIND THE MAGIC!

THE WIZARD FIRED SEVERAL FINAL BOLTS, THEN WITHDREW INTO THE CASTLE'S INTERIOR, DRAGGING THE PROTESTING LAYLA BEHIND HIM!

WITHIN THE TOWER, LAYLA COWERED AS ZORK ENCOUNTERED THE REAL WIZARD WHO STAGGERED DAZED AND HELPLESS BEFORE HIM!
THWUK!
AH WOMAN STEALER! FINALLY YOU MEET YOUR FATE!

YOU HAVE SAVED MY KINGDOM! ASK WHAT YOU WILL... AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE IT!
I ASK FOR THE HAND OF PRINCE REGINALD IN MARRIAGE!
KING MALIFUS WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE REQUEST BUT BEING AN HONORABLE MAN GRANTED IT NONETHELESS! LEOPOLD SEEMED CONTENT WITH GOLD!

THE SCRAP OF PARCHMENT I FOUND IN PRIMO'S CASTLE PROVES THAT MALIFUS WAS BEHIND LAYLA'S KIDNAPPING! HE USED ME!
I CAN'T LET THAT GO UNAVENGED, LEST ALL MEN TAKE ME FOR A FOOL!

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

NO ONE, NOT EVEN A KING, PLAYS ME FOR A FOOL!
ARRGH!
CHUK!

GUARDS! SEIZE THAT MAN!
ME? WHY ME? I'VE DONE NOTHING!
YOU WILL BE HANGED AT DAWN!

I CLOUDED ALL THESE PEOPLE'S MINDS, AND WITH THEM, THE PRINCE'S! HE "SAW" THE FOOL THROW THAT KNIFE, NOT YOU! I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE!
LEOPOLD TRULY WAS A FOOL TO THINK I'D SHARE THE THRONE WITH HIM AFTER ELIMINATING MALIFUS AND REGINALD!
OH YES, THE BOY WILL SOON GO MAD! THEN... MY VIRILE HANDSOME FRIEND ALL WILL HAIL KING ZORK !!
end

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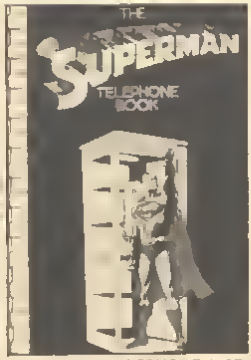

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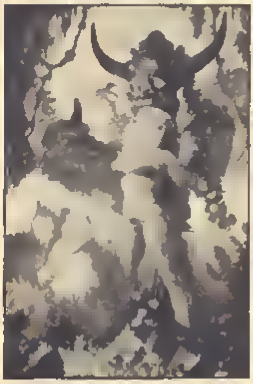

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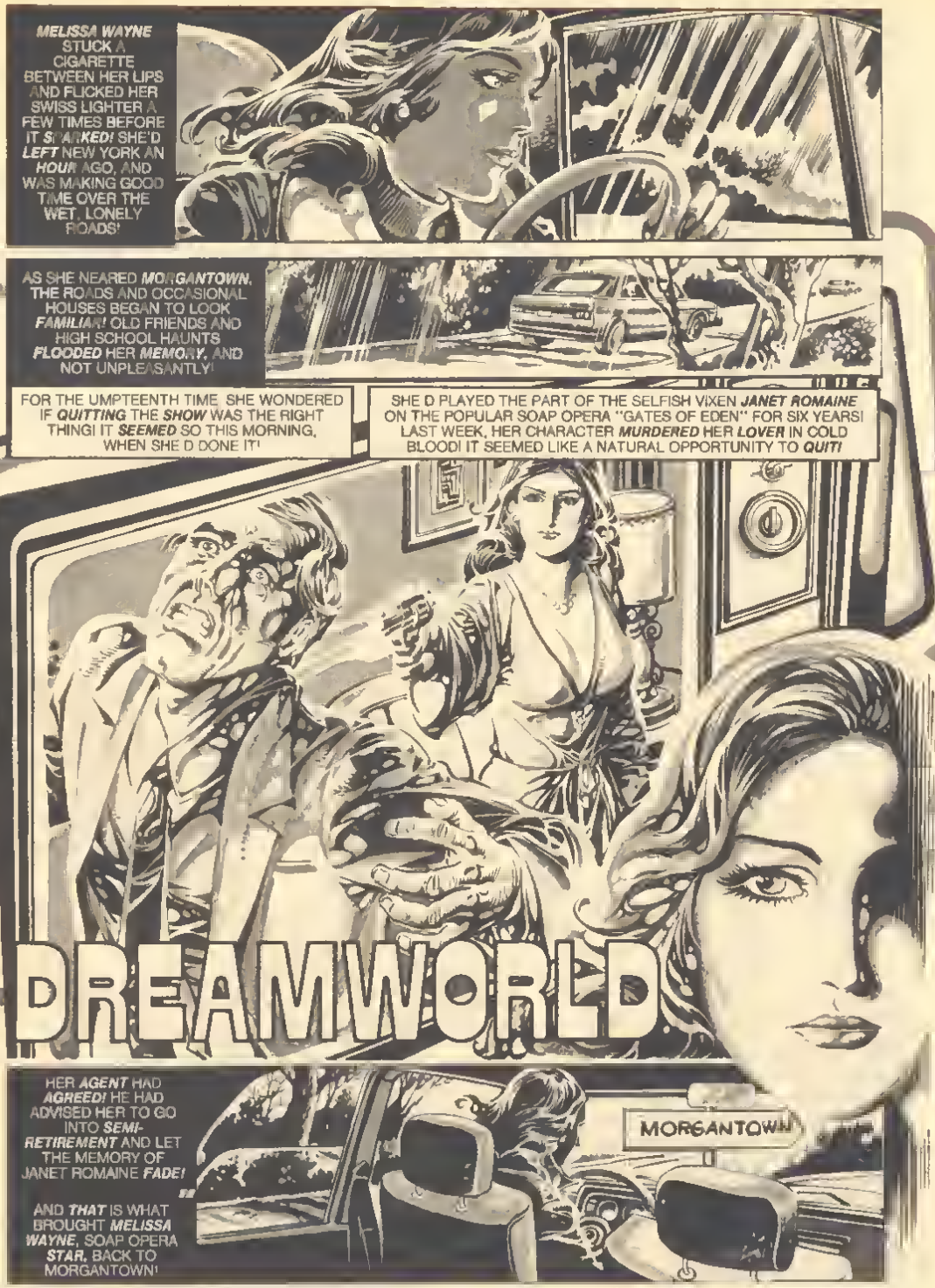


Author: GERRY BOUDREAU/Illustrator: JUN LOFAMIA

WRITING HER *OUT* OF THE SHOW WOULD BE *EASY!* HER *GUILT* WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND SHE WOULD BE *SENTENCED* TO THE GAS CHAMBER! *EXIT* JANET ROMAINE! THAT FINAL SHOW WOULD BE TAPED NEXT WEEK!

IN THE *MEANTIME,* SHE'D *RELAX,* COLLECT HER *THOUGHTS,* AND MAKE NEW PLANS HERE IN THE SLEEPY LITTLE TOWN WHERE SHE GREW UP!

SHE HADN'T HAD TIME TO NOTIFY *ANYONE* THAT SHE WAS *COMING.* ..SO THE VISIT THE *FIRST* IN *THREE YEARS* WOULD BE A *SURPRISE!*

LITTLE HAD *CHANGED.* ..EXCEPT *HER!*

THERE WERE *TWO* HOUSES ON *PERSIMMON LANE!* THE *FIRST,* SHE ASSUMED BELONGED TO THE *NEW NEIGHBORS,* THE *FARRELS,* HER MOTHER HAD WRITTEN ABOUT! THE *SECOND* WAS THE ONE SHE WAS *BORN* IN! IT WAS *DARK* AND *QUIET!*

MOM! DAD! I'M *HOME!* ANYBODY *HERE?*

SILENCE AND *DARKNESS!* MAYBE HER *DAD* HAD HAD ANOTHER *HEART ATTACK* AND HER MOTHER WAS STAYING WITH HIM AT THE *CLINIC!* THE THOUGHT MADE HER *TREMBLE!*

ACROSS THE *STREET,* SHE COULD SEE THE TELLTALE BLUE *FLICKER* OF A *TELEVISION* IN THE FARRELS' LIVING ROOM!

MELISSA WENT OVER AND STABBED THE *DOORBELL!*

WHAT DO YOU *WANT?*

I'M BERT AND AGGIE'S *DAUGHTER*.. YOU KNOW.. FROM *ACROSS* THE *STREET?* DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY *ARE?*

MELISSA! AGGIE'S TOLD ME *SO MUCH* ABOUT YOU! THEY'RE UP NORTH *FISHING!* MY *HUSBAND,* GEORGE, IS *WITH* THEM! THEY WON'T BE *BACK* UNTIL *TOMORROW NIGHT*...BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY *HERE! EDDIE* WILL BRING IN YOUR *LUGGAGE!*

THANKS IT'S *MY* FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME WITHOUT *CALLING!*

AMELIA SHOWED MELISSA THE BATH AND *GUEST ROOMS*, AND PROMISED A FULL TOUR IN THE MORNING! MELISSA *COLLAPSED* ON THE BED AND FELL *ASLEEP* WITHOUT UNDRESSING!

SHE AWOKE TO THE SOUND OF THE *TELEVISION*...THE STACCATO *WHISTLES, EXPLOSIONS* AND RAZZLE DAZZLE *MUSIC* OF THE SATURDAY MORNING *CARTOONS!*

AROUND *TEN*, MRS FARREL SERVED *COFFEE* AND JELLIED *TOAST* AND *FUSSED* OVER MELISSA, WHILE EDDIE SAT *GLUED* TO THE *TELEVISION!*

I DON'T MEAN TO *PRY*, BUT DON'T YOU THINK EDDIE WATCHES TOO MUCH *TV?* A BOY HIS AGE SHOULD BE MORE *ACTIVE!*

EDDIE IS *NINETEEN*... BUT HIS MIND IS MUCH *YOUNGER!* YOU SEE HE'S *RETARDED!*

I'M *SORRY!*

HE DOESN'T GO *OUT* MUCH! TV'S HIS ONLY *CONTACT* WITH THE WORLD *OUTSIDE!* I CAN'T VERY WELL *DEPRIVE* HIM OF IT!

MELISSA PUT ON A FRESH SWEATER AND JEANS AND DROVE OFF FOR *BETH COOPER'S* HOUSE! HER OLD FRIEND WOULD SIMPLY *DIE* WHEN SHE *SURPRISED* HER!

CLIK!

IN HIGH SCHOOL BETH AND MELISSA HAD BEEN *CO-CAPTAINS* OF THE *CHEERLEADING* SQUAD! BUT THEY WERE LONG *PAST* THE DAYS WHEN THEY WOULD *RECREATE* THEIR OLD *ROUTINES!* TODAY THEY SIMPLY *CHATTED* AND *GOSSIPED!*

STILL MELISSA KEPT WISHING THAT BETH WOULD STOP *TREATING* HER LIKE A *'CELEBRITY'!*

BY *DAY*, ALL THE OLD SIGHTS SOUNDS, AND SMELLS OF MORGANTOWN CAME TO NEW *LIFE!* MELISSA FELT *YOUNG* AGAIN!

NAPPY AND A LITTLE *LIGHT-HEADED*, MELISSA'S DRIVING WAS ON *AUTO-PILOT!* HER *MIND* WAS ON THIS *TOWN*, AND THE *CHILD* SHE *ONCE* WAS...NOT ON THE TWISTING, LONELY *ROAD!*

I KNOW WHO YOU *ARE* AND I *SAW* WHAT YOU *DID!*

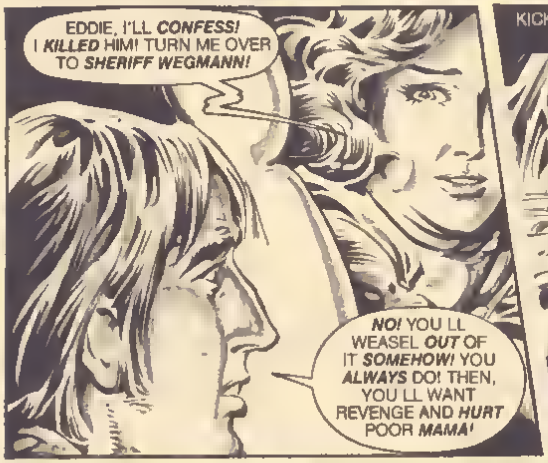
MELISSA'S HEART *LURCHED* AND SHE *STOMPED* ON THE *BRAKES!*

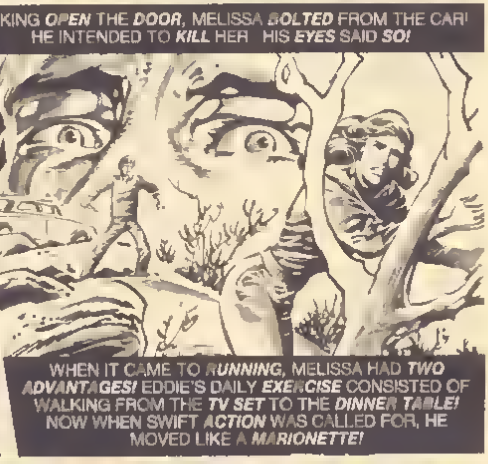
SCREEE!

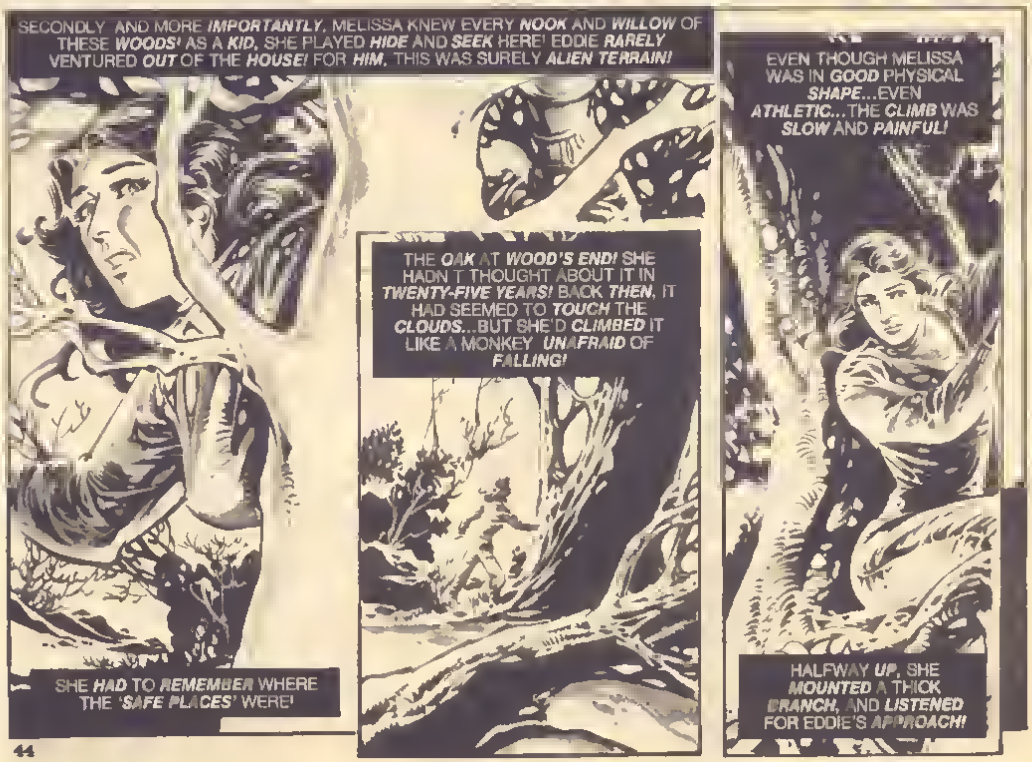
EDDIE, WHAT THE *HELL* ARE *YOU* DOING *BACK THERE?* YOU DAMN NEAR *SCARED* THE *SKIN* OFF MY *BONES!*

I *SAW* YOU *KILL* THAT MAN !

EDDIE THAT *WASN'T ME!* THAT WAS *JANET ROMAINE*, THE CHARACTER I PLAY!
YOU ALWAYS *WERE* A GOOD *LIAR!* YOU HAD *EVERYBODY* FOOLED, EVEN *MOM!* BUT *I* KNOW WHO YOU *ARE* AND WHAT YOU LL *DO!*


EDDIE, I'LL *CONFESS!* I *KILLED* HIM! TURN ME OVER TO *SHERIFF WEGMANN!*
NO! YOU LL WEASEL *OUT* OF IT *SOMEHOW!* YOU *ALWAYS* DO! THEN, YOU LL WANT REVENGE AND *HURT* POOR *MAMA!*


KICKING *OPEN* THE *DOOR*, MELISSA *BOLTED* FROM THE CAR! HE INTENDED TO *KILL* HER HIS *EYES* SAID *SO!*
WHEN IT CAME TO *RUNNING*, MELISSA HAD *TWO ADVANTAGES!* EDDIE'S DAILY *EXERCISE* CONSISTED OF WALKING FROM THE *TV SET* TO THE *DINNER TABLE!* NOW WHEN SWIFT *ACTION* WAS CALLED FOR, HE MOVED LIKE A *MARIONETTE!*


SECONDLY AND MORE *IMPORTANTLY*, MELISSA KNEW EVERY *NOOK* AND *WILLOW* OF THESE *WOODS!* AS A *KID*, SHE PLAYED *HIDE* AND *SEEK* HERE! EDDIE *RARELY* VENTURED *OUT* OF THE *HOUSE!* FOR *HIM*, THIS WAS SURELY *ALIEN TERRAIN!*
SHE *HAD* TO *REMEMBER* WHERE THE *'SAFE PLACES'* WERE!
THE *OAK* AT *WOOD'S END!* SHE HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT IN *TWENTY-FIVE YEARS!* BACK *THEN*, IT HAD SEEMED TO *TOUCH* THE *CLOUDS*...BUT SHE'D *CLIMBED* IT LIKE A MONKEY *UNAFRAID* OF *FALLING!*
EVEN THOUGH MELISSA WAS IN *GOOD* PHYSICAL *SHAPE*...EVEN *ATHLETIC*...THE *CLIMB* WAS *SLOW* AND *PAINFUL!*
HALFWAY *UP*, SHE *MOUNTED* A THICK *BRANCH*, AND *LISTENED* FOR EDDIE'S *APPROACH!*

AMELIA LOOKED AT HER WATCH ONCE AGAIN! SHE GOT HOME FROM THE SWAP MEET AN HOUR AGO...AND EDDIE WAS GONE! THE TV, LIKE A TOMBSTONE IN THE CORNER, CHILLED HER BY ITS SILENCE!

SHE CALLED BETH COOPER! MELISSA HAD LEFT SOME TIME AGO! AMELIA WAITED, PRAYED, AND CALMED HER TREMBLING WITH VODKA!

SHE CALLED THE HOSPITAL...NO, THEY HADN'T BEEN BROUGHT IN! SHE DIALED THE SHERIFF'S NUMBER BUT HUNG UP BEFORE THE FIRST RING! WEGMANN WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE EDDIE...HE MIGHT EVEN HURT HIM! IT WAS UP TO HER!

ONLY ONE ROAD WENT TO COOPER'S FARM! IF MELISSA HAD HAD AN ACCIDENT OR BREAKDOWN, SHE MIGHT STILL BE OUT THERE!

EDDIE DIDN'T LIKE WOODS! ON TV, FORESTS WERE FRIENDLY... BUT HERE THORNS PRICKED HIS FACE AND INSECTS DRANK HIS BLOOD! IT WAS REAL! HE FELT BETRAYED!

BUT NOW THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK! JANET KNEW HE WAS ONTO HER! SHE'D STOP AT NOTHING, MURDER INCLUDED, TO HIDE HER DEEDS! AS LONG AS JANET LIVED...HE AND HIS MOM WERE IN DANGER!

MELISSA KEPT PERFECTLY STILL FOR TWENTY MINUTES. WAITING FOR ANY SIGN OF EDDIE'S APPROACH! THERE WAS NONE! PERHAPS HE'D GIVEN UP AND GONE HOME...? SHE CONSIDERED CLIMBING DOWN!

BUT NO...THEY HADN'T NAMED THIS WOOD'S END FOR NOTHING! IN ANOTHER HUNDRED FEET SHE WOULD COME TO THE LAKE, BLACK AND MUDDY, WHERE WATER MOCCASINS SLITHERED LIKE MOONBEAMS OVER THE SURFACE!

THE ONLY WAY OUT WAS THE WAY SHE CAME IN! THICK FOLIAGE AND DEEP MARSHES MADE ALL OTHER ROUTES IMPENETRABLE!

SHE HEARD THE SNAP AND RUSTLE OF HIS APPROACH...AND THEN HE APPEARED...CLUTCHING THAT AWFUL KNIFE!

MELISSA'S CAR AND THE KEYS ARE STILL IN IT! SHE MUST HAVE ABANDONED IT IN A HURRY TO FORGET THEM!

EITHER SHE'S GONE BACK DOWN THE HIGHWAY, TOWARDS COOPER FARM, OR INTO THE WOODS! I'D SAY THE WOODS... BUT WHY?

MELISSA BENT LOW AND *HUGGED* THE *BRANCH!* HER *HEART* WAS *POUNDING* SO *LOUDLY*, SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DIDN'T *HEAR* IT! THEN, SOMETHING *RUSTLED* THROUGH THE BRUSH *BEHIND* HIM!

IT WAS PROBABLY ONLY A *SQUIRREL*...HOWEVER, IT WAS *ENOUGH* TO STEER EDDIE'S ATTENTION *AWAY* FROM *HER* DIRECTION, BACK FROM WHENCE HE *CAME!*

WHEN SHE WAS SURE HE WAS *GONE*, MELISSA SHIMMIED DOWN THE TREE! SHE *KNEW* THAT HE'D COME BACK *LOOKING* FOR HER ONCE THE BRUSH CREATURE WAS *IDENTIFIED!*

A SUCCESSFUL *GAME* REQUIRES A STRONG *OFFENSE* AS WELL AS *DEFENSE!* IF I'M GONNA *LIVE* THROUGH THIS, I'VE *GOT* TO BECOME THE *AGGRESSOR!*

I NEED A *WEAPON!*

WILD ROSES! THESE *THORNS* LOOK *MEAN!* GOD *HELP* HIM! GOD HELP *ME!*

SHE KEPT *LOW*, CRAWLING, UNTIL SHE CAME TO A HUGE *ELM TREE!* YARDS OF *IVY* COILED AROUND THE TRUNK! WITH A SHARP *ROCK*, SHE *CUT* A NINE FOOT LENGTH OF *VINE!*

SHE THEN *RETURNED* TO THE *PATH!* IF *EDDIE* CAME BACK *BEFORE* SHE *COMPLETED* HER *PLAN*...BOTH *SHE* AND HER *PLAN* WOULD BE *FINISHED!*

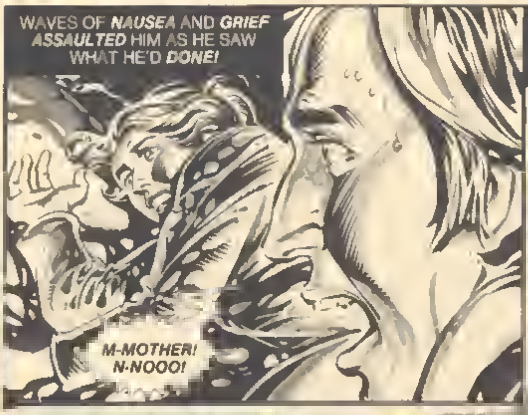
HE FOLLOWED THE *NOISE* IN THE *BRUSH* ALMOST BACK TO THE ROAD BEFORE HE GOT A GLIMPSE OF ITS *CAUSE!* EDDIE HAD ALWAYS WONDERED IF CHIPMUNKS *TALKED*, LIKE *"CHIP N' DALE,"* OR *GIBBERED* LIKE THE ONES IN *"THE WILD KINGDOM!"*

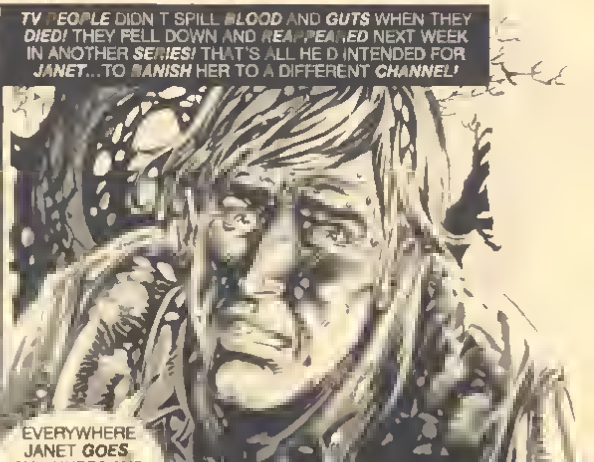
EITHER WAY, THEY POSED NO *THREAT!* BUT THEN *ANOTHER* SOUND REACHED HIS EARS!

SOMEONE WAS ON THE *PATH!* UNMISTAKABLY A *HUMAN*...MOVING *HIS WAY!* HIS FINGERS *TENSED* AROUND THE *KNIFE HANDLE!*

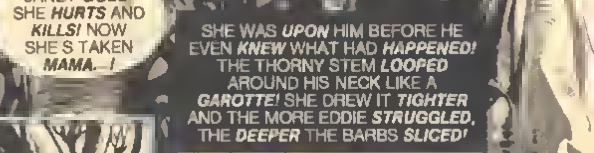
IT HAD TO BE JANET...THE *MURDERER!* IT HAD TO BE JANET...THE *VICTIM!*

HE WAITED FOR PRECISELY THE *RIGHT MOMENT* THEN *LEAPED*, *GROWLING* LIKE AN ANIMAL, AND *PLUNGED* THE *KNIFE* INTO HER *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN!* SHE *SCREAMED* AND *PLEADED*, BUT HE *STABBED* HER UNTIL SHE WAS *STILL!*
AAAGHGH!
CHOK! CHOK!


WAVES OF *NAUSEA* AND *GRIEF* *ASSAULTED* HIM AS HE SAW WHAT HE'D *DONE!*
M-MOTHER! N-NOOO!


TV PEOPLE DIDN'T SPILL *BLOOD* AND *GUTS* WHEN THEY *DIED!* THEY FELL DOWN AND *REAPPEARED* NEXT WEEK IN ANOTHER *SERIES!* THAT'S ALL HE'D INTENDED FOR *JANET*...TO *BANISH* HER TO A DIFFERENT *CHANNEL!*

TELEVISION AND *MAMA* HAD BEEN THE *WHOLE* OF HIS *WORLD!*


EVERYWHERE JANET *GOES*, SHE *HURTS* AND *KILLS!* NOW SHE'S TAKEN *MAMA*...!

TIMING WAS *CRUCIAL!* ONE SECOND TOO *SOON* OR TOO *LATE*, AND SHE'D *BLOW* IT! SHE HEARD HIM COMING...NO MORE *SLOW*, METHODICAL STEPS...HE WAS *RUNNING*...CLOSER...*FASTER*...ALMOST!

THWIP!
CLONK!

SHE WAS *UPON* HIM BEFORE HE EVEN *KNEW* WHAT HAD *HAPPENED!* THE THORNY STEM *LOOPED* AROUND HIS NECK LIKE A *GAROTTE!* SHE DREW IT *TIGHTER* AND THE MORE EDDIE *STRUGGLED*, THE *DEEPER* THE BARBS *SLICED!*

SHE *GROPED* FOR EDDIE'S *KNIFE*, BUT QUICKLY SAW THAT SHE *WOULDN'T* BE NEEDING IT! HIS FRANTIC *STRAINING* ONLY MADE IT *EASIER* FOR THE PRICKLY *TEETH* TO *SEVER* THE *JUGULAR!* BY THE TIME SHE COULD SUMMON *HELP* FOR HIM, HE WOULD BE LONG PAST *DEAD!*

SOBBING AND *STUMBLING* THROUGH THE WOODS AS IF IN THE MAD WHITE *MISTS* OF A *DREAM*, SHE CAME UPON THE BODY OF *AMELIA!*

OH *GOD! NO!*

FOR THE PAST YEARS SHE D BEEN A PART OF A FICTIONAL, PREFABRICATED *DREAMWORLD*, WHERE PEOPLE LIKE EDDIE *'LIVED'!* SHE DIDN'T FEEL *RESPONSIBLE*, BUT SHE WAS DAMN GLAD SHE D *QUIT* THE *SHOW!*

SHE NOTIFIED *SHERIFF WEGMANN*, ANSWERED HIS *QUESTIONS*, AND MADE OUT HER *STATEMENT* IN A *DAZE!* SHE WENT BACK TO THE *HOUSE* TO *GATHER* HER *THINGS!*

THE TV WAS ON. THE *EVENING NEWS!*

SOMETHING BETWEEN A *GIGGLE* AND A *WHIMPER* ESCAPED HER LIPS AS SHE SAW *EDDIE* BEING *CARRIED OUT!* HE D ALWAYS *LIVED* IN THAT *BOX!* NOW IN *DEATH* IT *WELCOMED* HIM *HOME!*

HE WAS WHERE HE D *ALWAYS WANTED* TO BE ALWAYS *THOUGHT* HE *WAS!*

SHE TURNED IT *OFF!* THE BLUE LIGHT *SHRANK* TO A SMALL *SPECK*, THEN *FADED* ALTOGETHER! SHE STARTED FOR THE DOOR !

A *VOICE*, *DULL* AND *MECHANICAL*, BROKE THE *SILENCE!*

QUITTING WON'T *HELP!* YOU WON'T *WIN!* WE RE TOO *POWERFUL*, TOO *POPULAR!* THEY *FLOCK* TO US AND HAND US THEIR *WILLS* ON A *SILVER PLATTER!*

SHE *STARED*, LONG *AFTER* THE SET HAD GONE *SILENT!* SHE COULDN T BE SURE WHETHER THE WORDS ORIGINATED FROM THE *BOX* OF TRANSISTORS AND WIRES OR HER *OWN IMAGINATION!* BUT THE OCTOBER NIGHT TURNED SUDDENLY *COLDER!* **end**

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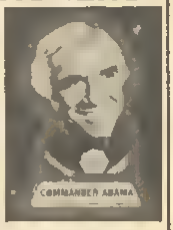
Battlestar GALACTICA TRADING CARDS AND STICKERS



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CONAN

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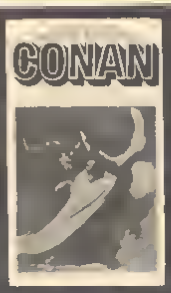

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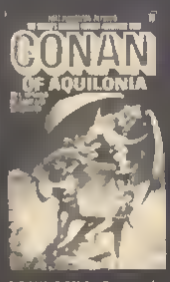

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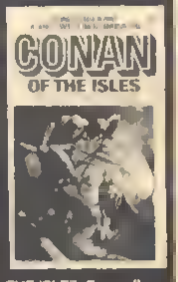

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Author DAN HALLASSEY/Illustrators JOHN GARCIA and RUDY NEBRES

THE *FIRST* MAN TO RECEIVE THE *TRANSLATED* GLIPIN MISSIVE WAS THE *COMMANDER* OF THE FIDELITY *ADMIRAL BULL SEDGEWICK-THWAITE!*

BAH! WON'T *HEAR* OF IT! *NEGOTIATE* WITH A *GLIPIN? UNHEARD* OF MAN!

SIR, THE ION *STORM* IS ITS WAY OF *GETTING* OUR *ATTENTION!* THE GLIPIN SAYS IT WILL *END* THE ION *BOMBARDMENT* IF WE WILL *GIVE* IT ONE OF OUR *MEN!* A HEALTHY *MALE* TO BE PLACED ON ITS *ASTEROID!*

"WE HAVE *UNDERESTIMATED* THE ADAPTABILITY OF THESE GLIPINS, ADMIRAL! *FIRST* OF ALL, THAT CREATURE IS ABLE *SOMEHOW* TO *ERECT* A PROTECTIVE SHELL AROUND ITSELF ON THE ASTEROID! *SECONDLY,* THOUGH WE SUPPOSEDLY *EXTERMINATED* THE ENTIRE *RACE..* THE STORM IS *ORIGINATING* FROM THE *VERY SOIL* OF THE *PLANET!* ANALYZED, THEY SEEM TO BE THE *CRIES* OF *MILLIONS* OF *DEAD GLIPINS!*"

POPPYCOCK! DEAD GLIPINS! DEMANDS FOR *HOSTAGES!* LET'S *BRING* THAT BEAST ON *BOARD! YES!* GIVE THE *ORDER!*

AND GET *RYKER! HE* KNOWS *GLIPINS!*

MINUTES *LATER,* THE DESIGNATED MEN WERE *SUITING UP!*

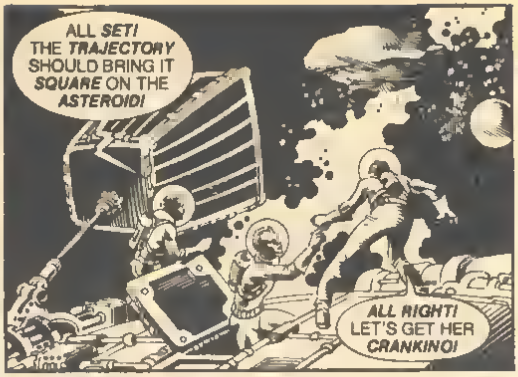
THEY SHOULD ALL BE *DEAD! ALL* OF EM! *DEAD!*

BUT RYK, WHY MUST *YOU* GO? IT MIGHT BE *DANGEROUS!*

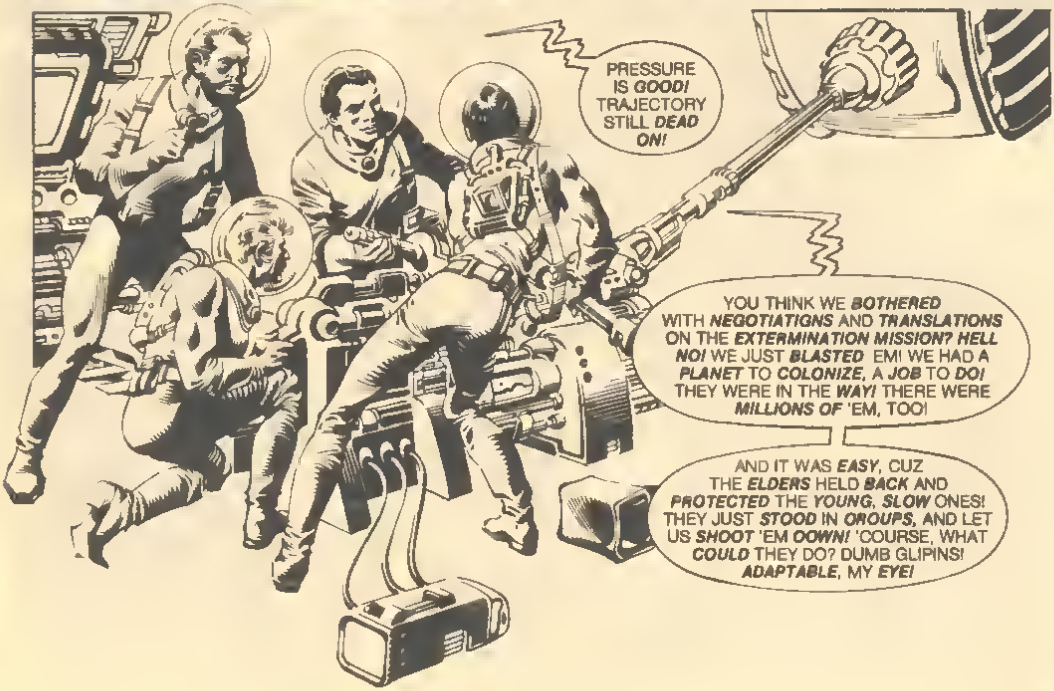
BECAUSE, BABY, I *COMMANDED* THE *FLEET* THAT *EXTERMINATED* GLIPINIA! AND I GUESS I DIDN'T DO THE *JOB,* BECAUSE THERE'S STILL *ONE ALIVE!*

I'LL BRING THAT DAMN THING *DOWN.* ..OR MY NAME AIN'T *JAKE RYKER!*

SOME TIME LATER UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF THE GLIPIN, THE PRESSURIZED HATCH WAS BLOWN AND THE MINERAL SCOOP WAS RIGGED ON THE UPPER HULL!


ALL SET! THE TRAJECTORY SHOULD BRING IT SQUARE ON THE ASTEROID!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET HER CRANKING!

LOOK AT THAT SMUG SUCKER UP THERE! I'LL WIPE THE SMILE OFF ITS ALIEN MUG!


PRESSURE IS GOOD! TRAJECTORY STILL DEAD ON!
YOU THINK WE BOTHERED WITH NEGOTIATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS ON THE EXTERMINATION MISSION? HELL NO! WE JUST BLASTED EM! WE HAD A PLANET TO COLONIZE, A JOB TO DO! THEY WERE IN THE WAY! THERE WERE MILLIONS OF 'EM, TOO!
AND IT WAS EASY, CUZ THE ELDERS HELD BACK AND PROTECTED THE YOUNG, SLOW ONES! THEY JUST STOOD IN GROUPS, AND LET US SHOOT 'EM DOWN! 'COURSE, WHAT COULD THEY DO? DUMB GLIPINS! ADAPTABLE, MY EYE!

LOOKS GOOD! LOOKS GOOO!
CONTACT! MAGNETIZE!
FINE! BRING THE ROCK DOWN WITH IT! EASY! YOU...KEEP YOUR BLASTER ON IT! IF IT MOVES, SHOOT!
BUT JUST AS THE SCOOP WAS BRINGING THE GLIPIN DOWN ON THE HULL
IT'S LOOSE!
AAAGH! LOOK OUT!
HOLY SMOKES!
RYKER, DESPITE HIS HATREO FOR THE GLIPIN COULD NOT CONCEAL HIS WONDER AS THE UNGAINLY ALIEN CONTORTEO AND WRIGGLEO AND CLAWEO ITS WAY THROUGH THE GRILL-HATCH AND INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE SHIP!
THE SAME BLASTERS THAT HAD WIPED OUT ITS RACE HAD NO EFFECT! IT WAS QUITE ADAPTABLE!

YOU *WHAT?* IT *WHAT? EGADS*, MAN!

IT GOT *AWAY*, SIR THROUGH A HATCH *WAY* TOO *SMALL* FOR IT! OUR *BLASTERS* HAD *NO EFFECT!*

ATTENTION ALL HANDS! BATTLE STATIONS! SECURITY TO *ENGINEERING!*

THE FINEST *WEAPONRY* IN THE *SYSTEM* WAS TROTTED OUT FOR THE GLIPIN *BLOOD-BOILERS, ATOMIZERS, STINK-TANKS* .ENOUGH *FIREPOWER* TO *BLOW* A KING SIZE *HOLE* IN THE *HULL!*

WE VE DETECTED AN *ODD READING* IN *C-LEVEL*, SIR!

RIGHTO! RYKER TROT ON DOWN TO *C-LEVEL*, AND TRY NOT TO *MUCK* IT *UP* THIS TIME *WOT?*

HEY! AIN T WE GONNA *WAIT* FOR *RYKER?*

WHAT *FOR?* JUST KEEP YOUR *EYES OPEN!*

SUDDENLY THE MIGHTY *FORE-CLAW* OF THE STEALTHY GLIPIN *SWEPT* DOWN IN AN ARC AND, WITH ONE *SWIPE*, *GUTTED* AN UNFORTUNATE SECURITY PATROLMAN!

THERE IT *IS!* UP *THERE!*

RRIPP!

ALEEE!

FIRE!

K-POW! K-POW!

B-DAM! BAM!

JESUS! WE RE JUST *TICKLING* IT WITH *MAXIMUM* FIREPOWER!

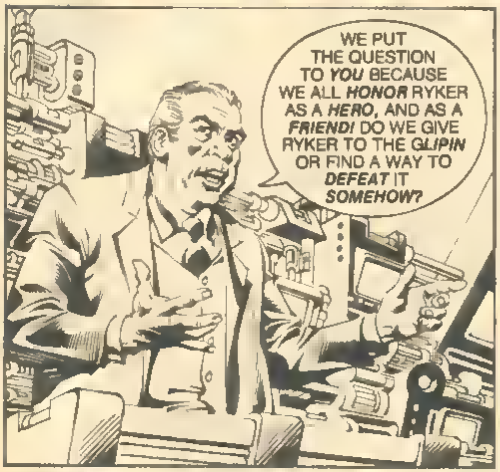
STAND ASIDE! LET ME GET *AT–!* *"URRK!"*

WHOP!

AS IF GUIDED BY A *SECRET SENSE*, THE GLIPIN *GRABBED* THE *EXTERMINATOR* OF ITS *RACE*, AND TOOK HIM *UP* TO ITS *REFUGE* IN THE *RAFTERS!*

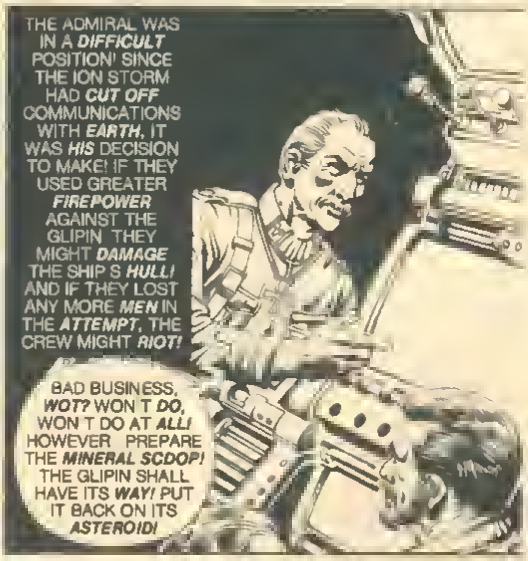
HOLD YOUR *FIRE!* IT'S GOT *RYKER!*

AN HOUR LATER, THE ENTIRE CREW WAS SUMMONED TO AN EMERGENCY MEETING!
CALM DOWN, MEN! QUIET, IF YOU PLEASE! GO AHEAD, PANKS!
YOU ALL KNOW THE SITUATION BY NOW! THE GLIPIN HAS RYKER IN ENGINEERING... ALIVE! THE GLIPIN IS DEMANDING THAT WE PUT IT AND RYKER ON ITS ASTEROID SET IT FREE! IN RETURN, IT PROMISES TO END THE ION STORM!

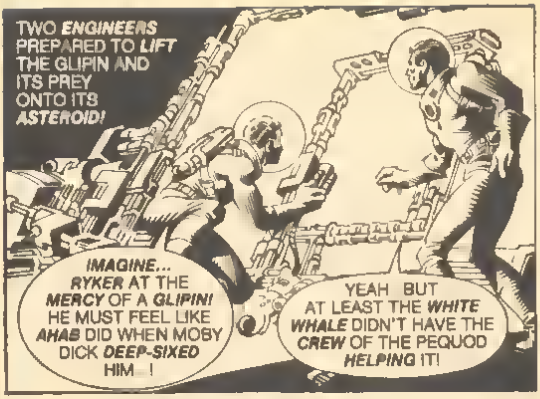

WE PUT THE QUESTION TO YOU BECAUSE WE ALL HONOR RYKER AS A HERO, AND AS A FRIEND! DO WE GIVE RYKER TO THE GLIPIN OR FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT IT SOMEHOW?

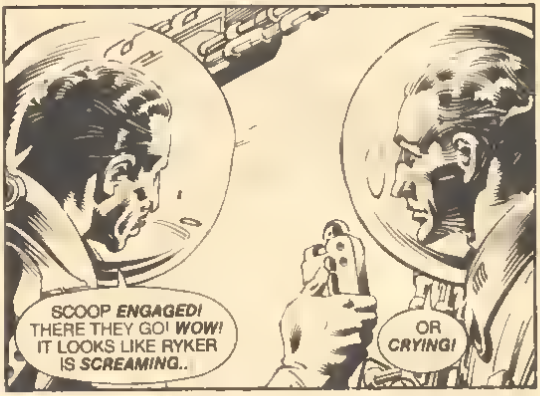
I PUT TWENTY GUTSCRAPE MISSILES INTO THAT GLIPIN, AND IT DIDN'T BLINK!
I SAY GIVE IT UP!

GIVE IT RYKER! LET'S GO HOME!
LET IT HAVE HIM... AND GOOD RIDDANCE TO BOTH OF THEM!
YEAH!


THE ADMIRAL WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION! SINCE THE ION STORM HAD CUT OFF COMMUNICATIONS WITH EARTH, IT WAS HIS DECISION TO MAKE! IF THEY USED GREATER FIREPOWER AGAINST THE GLIPIN, THEY MIGHT DAMAGE THE SHIP'S HULL! AND IF THEY LOST ANY MORE MEN IN THE ATTEMPT, THE CREW MIGHT RIOT!
BAD BUSINESS, WOT? WON'T DO, WON'T DO AT ALL! HOWEVER... PREPARE THE MINERAL SCOOP! THE GLIPIN SHALL HAVE ITS WAY! PUT IT BACK ON ITS ASTEROID!

WE ARRANGED TO HAVE A *SPACESUIT* BROUGHT UP TO *RYKER!* THE GLIPIN DIDN'T SEEM TO *MIND!*
DIDN'T MIND" YOU'D THINK IT *OWNED* THIS SHIP!
ALL RIGHT THE SCOOP IS IN *READINESS!* THE GLIPIN IS *MOVING UP* TO THE *OUTER HULL!*


TWO *ENGINEERS* PREPARED TO *LIFT* THE GLIPIN AND ITS PREY ONTO ITS *ASTEROID!*
IMAGINE... RYKER AT THE *MERCY* OF A *GLIPIN!* HE MUST FEEL LIKE *AHAB* DID WHEN MOBY DICK *DEEP-SIXED* HIM...!
YEAH BUT AT LEAST THE *WHITE WHALE* DIDN'T HAVE THE *CREW* OF THE PEQUOD *HELPING* IT!


SCOOP *ENGAGED!* THERE THEY GO! *WOW!* IT LOOKS LIKE RYKER IS *SCREAMING..*
OR *CRYING!*

WITHIN MINUTES THE GLIPIN WAS *HOISTED* FROM THE SCOOP ONTO ITS *ASTEROID!* WITH *RYKER* ABOARD, THE ASTEROID SLOWLY BEGAN TO *DRIFT* TOWARD THE PLANET *GLIPINIA!*
CAN YOU SPOT *RYKER* ANYWHERE?
HARDLY, ADMIRAL! IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S *SITTING* ON HIM!
POOR CHAP!

RYKER WAS *NEVER* SEEN AGAIN! THE ASTEROID AND ITS ODDLY MATCHED PASSENGERS *FLOATED* TO *GLIPINIA* AND WERE *LOST* IN ITS ATMOSPHERE!

IN ITS *WAKE*, THE ION STORM *BLINKED OUT* GRADUALLY. *SHIMMERED* TO *NOTHING* BUT A *TAIL*, A *SHADOW*...AND FINALLY *DIED!*

THE ION STORM AND ITS *CAUSE*, WERE *FORGOTTEN* AFTER A *WHILE!* THE *COLONIZATION* OF *GLIPINIA* WAS *POSTPONED* AND COMMITTEES WERE FORMED TO *STUDY* THE NEW SITUATION!
THE *LOSS* OF THE GALLANT LIEUTENANT RYKER WAS *NOTED*, *CONDOLENCES* WERE SENT TO THE *FAMILY*, AND A *PLAQUE* WAS *MOUNTED* IN THE *FIDELITY!*

HIS FRIENDS *WONDERED*, THOUGH, WHAT *FATE* RYKER HAD *MET* AT THE *WHIM* OF THE ALIEN HE SO *HATED!* HAD RYKER BEEN *TORTURED, ENSLAVED, DEVOURED?* HAD THE GLIPIN EVER DISCOVERED THE *ROLE* THAT *RYKER* HAD PLAYED IN THE *DEATH* OF ITS *CIVILIZATION?*
WHEN THE TIME COMES TO *COLONIZE* GLIPINIA THESE FRIENDS WILL FIND SOME *CLUES!* THEY LL DISCOVER THAT *LOVE* AND *HATE* ARE THE *SAME ENERGY* BUT AT *OPPOSITE* ENDS OF A *CIRCULAR SPECTRUM!* THEY LL FIND THAT A *NEW* CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE TO BE WAGED AGAINST THOSE *UNCANNY, ADAPTABLE GLIPINS!*
end

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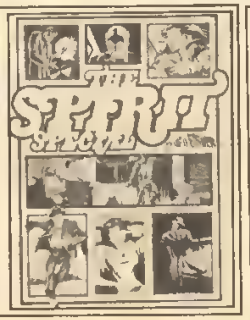

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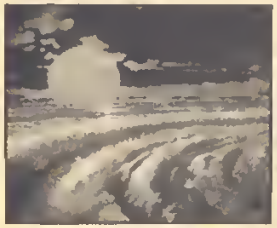

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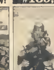

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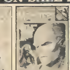

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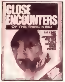

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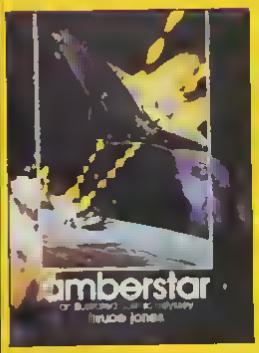

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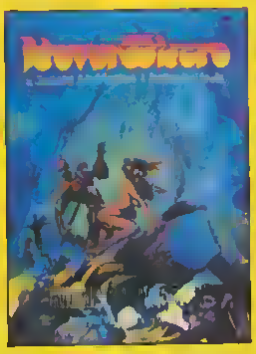

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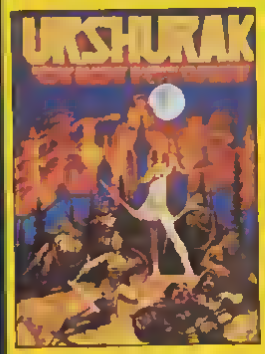

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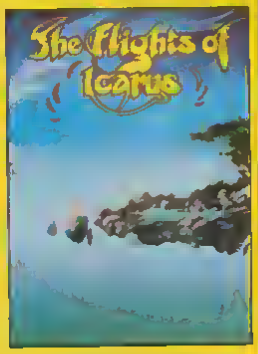

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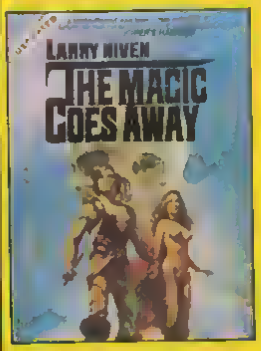

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